

Winter 2012-2013
Volume 34 Issue 4



Kiting

The Journal of the American Kitefliers Association

Oklahoma!

Where the Wind Comes
Sweepin' Down The Plain



Simon Crafts
Wins Grand
Champion Again
with *Barnstormer*

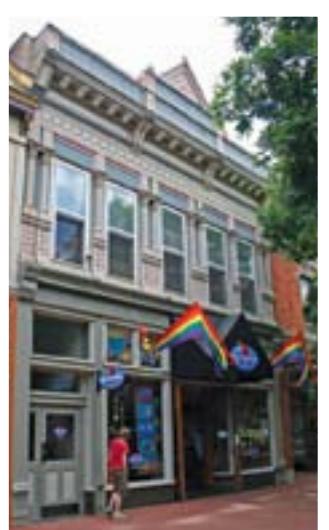
Borneo
Toronto
WSIKF
Antelope Island
Dieppe & Dieppe
KAP of the Year
Special Pull-out 2013 Calendar!



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On the cover: Simon Crafts won his second consecutive Grand Champion award with Barnstormer. Photo by Rick Agar.

Coming in the SPRING issue...

- > Food! Glorious Food!
- > South Padre Island
- > Kiteflying's Environmental Impact

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Greetings and good winds! To be honest, I never imagined that I'd be in the position of AKA President. But now that we're here, I'm really invigorated by the number of opportunities we have for improvement, simple steps that I believe can improve our general presence and value as a membership organization. The sky is the limit!

I'm all about exploring outward growth in bold fashion. With that in mind, it's important that we remember all major AKA decisions are made by a collective of knowledgeable and passionate people on the Board of Directors (officers and regional directors). We have the benefit of various perspectives and skill sets amongst them, I have a very good rapport and face time with most of the Board already, and I have faith that with valuable feedback from our members we'll be taking some intelligent and measured steps in the coming year.



Also, some apologies are due in advance. I've been running "cowboy" or independent in terms of kite promotion for quite a while and I can't stifle my initiative or yours by way of limiting exploratory discussion to committees. Sometimes it will sound like I'm acting solo, but at the end of the day, the ideas and directives we're going to develop will be properly packaged and proposed so they make sense for those that have volunteered and been entrusted with the care of our AKA.

The job of AKA President as I see it is to keep information and ideas flowing through the organization, help define and direct it, mediate the perspectives so that we're able to find the mean truths, then act on them, all without fear of contention, and with the clear mandate of not destroying what we're already doing in the process. Explore, define, build, prove it out, then swap out parts when we can do so smoothly.

With this in mind, the AKA web-



site also needs some revamping. While our volunteers spent an enormous amount of energy and made significant improvements with the last overhaul, I believe it's paramount that we refine it further with the idea of making it a more visual, accessible, educational and interactive experience for ALL AGES, starting with their first taste (the home page).

Just a few of the projects I'd like to see us explore in the coming year and beyond:

- enhancing the educational focus (workshops, etc.) and public outreach at our annual Convention
- archiving of select workshop videos from our annual Convention in the members' area of our website
- adjusting the sport kite competition format so it's less time consuming and more enjoyable for competitors
- an online resource for festival organizers where they can find promotional tools and exchange information
- updating some of the older, frontline manuals and guides in our library with modern information
- building working relationships with other charitable groups as a viable resource for activities and culture.

I often speak out of turn (too many years leading kite teams), but the AKA will ultimately be deciding and implementing with the collective logic of those involved. The folks on our Board of Directors and in volunteer positions are good people, expert and passionate in their respective skills. We have the team, I have the energy, we've got this. Please lend us your trust and support.

Otherwise, same as it ever was. Enjoy kiting and share it!

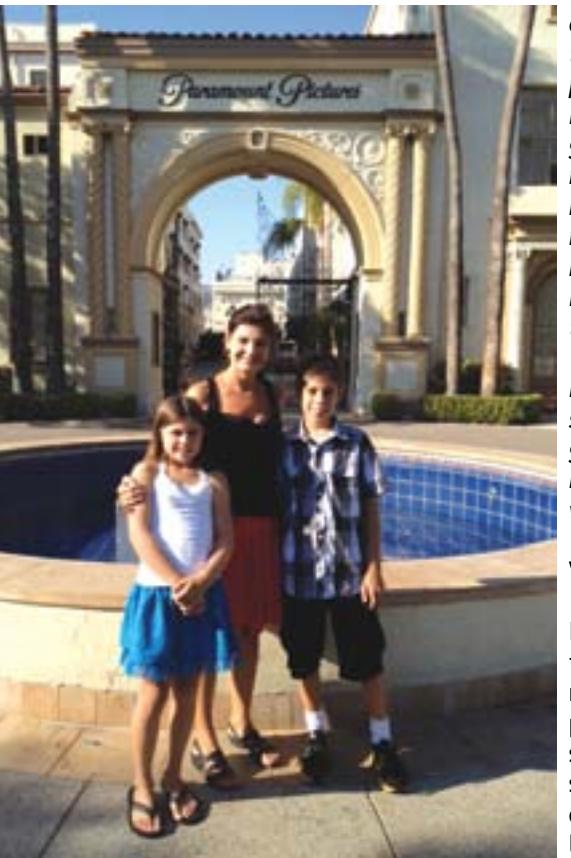
Cordially yours,
John Barresi



FULLY FIGURED BY IAN WILLOUGHBY

If you watched a mid-October episode of Nickelodeon's *Figure It Out*, you saw kiteflying's next teen TV star, Ian Willoughby. The show features a quartet of panelists asking the contestant questions, trying to figure out his talent. From time to time, the panelists are given hints, and if they guess incorrectly they may be drenched in Nickelodeon's trademark green slime.

For Ian, the panelists had to guess "Flies kite inside without wind." They managed to come up with four of the five words, but time ran out before they figured out the final one. (One guessed, "Flies kite without pants," which gave Ian pause before he denied it.) Along the way,



room I yelled "Dibs!" on the first bed I could see and catapulted myself onto it.

The night that we arrived in LA we went to Hollywood Boulevard and the Chinese Theater. We walked around and looked at all of the stars. We took pictures of all of the stars which we like. When we were in the Chinese theatre I measured my hands and feet to the stars.

The next day we were scheduled to go to the studio where the show is filmed and check out the conditions in which I was going to do my performance. It was amazing. The set was really colorful and we met one of the producers. We got to see one of the shows being taped. After that I got a chance to practice. I was looking to try and figure out where there were air currents in the room. When I was done I got to go on a tour of Paramount Studios. We saw the studios for *Glee*, *Animal Practice*, *American Horror Story*, the sky lot, and the New York City back lot. It was the coolest part of the trip by far.

The next day was show day. All of the contestants piled into the van to go to the studio. We hung out and talked about our talents until lunch. After lunch we went to the studio. Once there we practiced and then I had to wait through one show before I was on. I went up onto the stage and just talked with the host. It came down to one word and the judges never guessed it. I was so stunned when I won. I wowed the audience and the judges with my performance. It was late at night when we finally left and got back to the hotel. I had a great time.

I was thinking about the trip and I realized how lucky I am to have been able to have that experience. I will always treasure my memories of this experience. It is a once in a lifetime thing and I would like to thank the producer, Brian. I also want to thank my mom, she got me into kite flying. ☺





If you were to use one word to summarize the AKA's week in Enid, Oklahoma, that word would probably be *BARBECUE*. We ate a lot of it, at places like the Rib Crib, Phil's BBQ, and Blaze's. If you're an aficionado of brisket, pulled pork, ribs, and every sort of smoked meat there is (including smoked bologna), Enid was the place for you. And on most days, the wind was smoking, sometimes leaving kiters feeling cooked. Want to use a few more words? How about *precise* to describe the way the city's surveyor laid out the fields to within $\frac{1}{8}$ " of regulation? There's *sweep*, which is what Susie Skinner did in the Miniature Kite Challenge. There's *flighty*, which is how legislators will describe Assemblyman David Gomberg after he makes good on an auction dare by wearing a kiteflying Winnie the Pooh tie on the first day of the Oregon legislative session. *Disbelief*, after Scott Skinner admitted that he had destroyed the Star Farker, before unveiling the new Son of Farker. Let's not forget

Sara, which is what everyone will now be calling Elizabeth Gordon after a Magical Mystery Ballet mix-up. You'd need *master* and *student* to describe the student-surpasses-the-master relationship between Adrian Conn and Simon Crafts. Not to mention *pop*, which is something Park Fleming wishes you wouldn't do to his bubble wrap deltas. There's *glider*, for the indoor fly as well as workshops like Paul Fieber's, which filled the convention center atrium with styrofoam birds. And of course, the *pandemonium* of the Mini Rokkaku Challenge for local kids. Alright, perhaps there are a lot of words needed. So we'll show you these pictures instead, and simply say that Oklahoma was OK!



Brent Sutherland

A Mike Shaw kite



Adrian Conn's pointer



The Farker is dead, long live the Farker: Scott Skinner holds up Son of Farker.



Familiar colors: Simon Crafts' flat kite.



This Alexa King rok touched off an auction bidding war.

PHOTOS BY RICK AGAR, CAT GABREL, AND PHIL BRODER



Carl Anderson

Doug Coates and Karl Berg

Dennis Smith warms up.

Troy Gunn helps auction David Ellis' cody.



Susie Skinner dominated in miniature kitemaking.



Elizabeth Gordon and Jon Gillespie wrap it up.



Melissa Sutherland and Adrian Conn



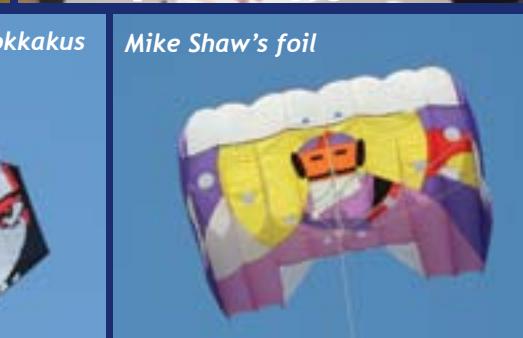
Park Fleming and Cat Gabrel taught this group to make a Hishi kite.



Dave Young gives Rick Agar and Ronda Brewer tips on building fighters.



Robert Brasington rokkakus



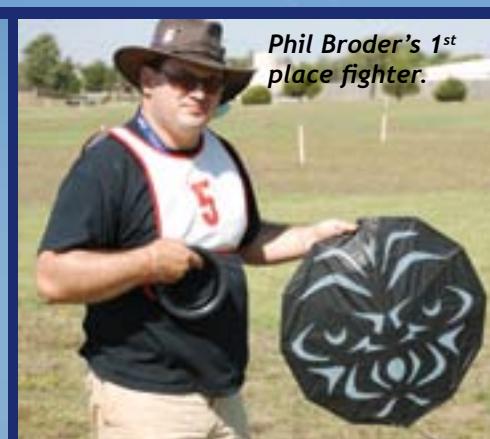
Mike Shaw's foil



With Mike Mosman egging him on, David Gomberg gives 110% to drag down a rokkaku.



KITEMAKER'S COMPETITION RESULTS



**2012
35TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
ENID OK**

GRAND CHAMPION Simon Crafts (Cellular)

HIGHEST SCORE

Flight	Alexa King	8.53 (Rokkaku)
Visual Appeal	Alexa King	8.67 (Rokkaku)
Craftsmanship	Simon Crafts	9.23 (Bowed)
Structural Design	Simon Crafts	9.13 (Cellular)

MOST INNOVATIVE

MIXED MEDIA	Robert Lockhart
TRADITIONAL MATERIALS	Alexa King
SPECIAL RECOGNITION	Carl Anderson
	Park Fleming

NOVICE

1 Dallas LaBrada

COOPERATIVE

1 Barbara Meyer & Joann Weber (Flat)

TRAIN

FLIGHT	VISUAL	CRAFT	STRUC	SUM	
1 Barbara Meyer	7.43	7.47	8.33	7.97	31.20
2 David Ellis	6.57	6.53	7.50	7.23	27.83

ROKKAKU

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Alexa King	8.53	8.67	8.27	8.03	33.50
2 Robert Lockhart	8.43	8.03	8.10	8.13	32.70
3 Phil Broder	8.27	7.73	8.03	7.77	31.80

FIGURE

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Mike Shaw	8.23	8.37	7.97	8.10	32.67
2 David Ellis	7.37	7.43	7.57	7.50	29.87

DELTA

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Simon Crafts	8.30	8.00	9.00	8.90	34.20
2 Barbara Meyer	7.83	8.10	8.73	8.53	33.20
3 Adrian Conn	7.80	7.83	8.63	8.60	32.87
4 Robert Lockhart	8.17	7.90	8.23	8.07	32.37
5 Park Fleming	8.00	7.40	7.63	7.67	30.70

SOFT/FLEXIBLE

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Barbara Meyer	7.97	7.70	8.20	8.13	32.00
2 Mike Shaw	7.67	7.97	7.83	8.03	31.50
3 Dallas LaBrada	7.77	7.53	7.80	7.93	31.03

CELLULAR/DIMENSIONAL

VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM		
1 Simon Crafts	8.47	8.63	8.70	9.13	34.93
2 Barbara Meyer	7.80	7.73	8.00	7.93	31.47

BOWED

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Adrian Conn	7.13	7.97	9.13	9.13	33.37
2 Simon Crafts	6.57	7.93	9.23	9.07	32.80
3 Robert Lockhart	7.77	7.77	8.43	8.33	32.30
4 Mike Shaw	7.73	7.80	8.17	8.17	31.87
5 Alexa King	7.40	7.63	7.97	7.60	30.60

FIGHTER

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Phil Broder	7.93	7.37	7.47	7.50	30.27
2 Carl Anderson	7.97	7.37	7.37	7.30	30.00
3 William Schumacher	7.80	7.13	7.47	7.57	29.97
4 David Ellis	7.50	7.30	7.27	7.37	29.43

FLAT

FLIGHT	VISUAL	STRUC	CRAFT	SUM	
1 Adrian Conn	6.63	7.53	8.60	8.50	31.27
B. Meyer/J. Weber	6.83	7.40	8.03	7.83	30.10
2 Phil Broder	5.97	7.30	7.73	7.80	28.80
3 Bill Schumacher	5.93	7.47	6.87	7.23	27.50
4 David Ellis	----	----	----	----	----

Judging visual appeal can be so exhausting: Ronda Brewer rests her eyes.

Bob Lockhart pitches his delta to Ralph Gore, Jon Burkhardt, Rob Pratt and Ronda Brewer.



Takako Barresi



INDOOR

~~BASEBALL~~ KITEFLYING

Terry Rankin



Darrin Skinner



Mike Mosman



John Barresi

SIMON CRAFTS: ENGINEER, KITEMAKING CHAMPION, AND FASHION TRENDSETTER!



Doug Coates



SPORT KITE COMPETITION RESULTS

Experienced Team Dual-line Precision

1 TKO Sport Kite Team 59.700
(Hershey/Clonts/Gunn)

Masters Individual Dual-line Ballet

1 Aaron Champie	85.933
2 Elizabeth Gordon	79.000
3 Jerry Hershey	75.933
4 John Gillespie	75.667
5 Douglas Coates	48.267

Masters Individual Dual-line Precision

1 Paul Koepke	70.133
2 Laura Stonestreet	56.000
3 Charles Stonestreet	53.800
4 Edward Skow	46.000

Masters Individual Multi-line Ballet

1 Paul Koepke	68.867
2 Laura Stonestreet	49.500
3 Edward Skow	39.500

Experienced Ind. Multi-line Ballet

1 John Gillespie	49.067
------------------	--------

Experienced Ind. Multi-line Precision

1 John Gillespie	44.933
------------------	--------

Experienced Pairs Dual-line Ballet

1 A Saber's Edge	51.467
(Coates/Berg)	

Experienced Pairs Dual-line Precision

1 A Saber's Edge	52.367
(Coates/Berg)	

Experienced Team Dual-line Ballet

1 TKO Sport Kite Team	66.867
(Hershey/Clonts/Gunn)	

Masters Pairs Dual-line Ballet

1 Fire and Ice	77.267
(K. Brinnehel/Koepke)	

Masters Pairs Dual-line Precision

1 Fire and Ice	63.633
(K. Brinnehel/Koepke)	

Masters Pairs Multi-line Ballet

1 Quadaholics	58.867
(Shook/ Smith)	
2 Damn Yankee Quad	56.867
(Coates/Berg)	

Masters Pairs Multi-line Precision

1 Damn Yankee Quad	64.467
(Coates/Berg)	



Cath Shook

Masters Team Dual-line Ballet

1 AirZone Flight Team	83.467
(Champie/Skinner/Gillespie)	

Masters Team Dual-line Precision

1 AirZone Flight Team	68.967
(Champie/Skinner/Gillespie)	

Novice Individual Dual-line Ballet

1 John Clonts	56.800
---------------	--------

Novice Individual Dual-line Precision

1 John Clonts	65.533
---------------	--------

Open Individual Indoor Unlimited Ballet

1 John Barresi	80.983
2 Michael Mosman	71.167

Open Individual Outdoor Unlimited

1 Mark Quirmbach	78.867
2 Charles Stonestreet	71.533
3 Troy Gunn	66.900
4 Edward Skow	66.600

Open Team Dual-line Train Ballet

1 Heaven Help Us	60.467
(Coates/Berg)	

CHAT WITH THE CONVENTION & VISITOR'S BUREAU DIRECTOR

No disrespect to any of the kitefliers who helped run the convention or just enjoyed our week in Enid, but nobody worked harder, drove back and forth to the field more, or had more fun than the three-person staff of the Enid Convention and Visitor's Bureau. Director Marcy Jarrett, Rob Houston, and Shala Miller marshalled the city's forces to welcome the AKA. Local businesses had greetings on their marquee signs, Rob made sure we got daily coverage in the newspaper and on radio, and Shala personally handmade all the table centerpieces for the banquet. And when they weren't working, they were flying alongside us.

Kiting: It seems like the whole city pitched in to help us. There was a surveyor to lay out the fields, and the Autry Tech Center offered to disassemble its wind turbine to avoid any tangles. How did all that come about?

Marcy: It was simple. We just asked. We have learned that teamwork is the best way to get something done, and the AKA awarded Enid the bid to host their national convention because we teamed up with several community partners who recognized the value of bringing your group to town. The City of Enid and Autry Technology Center were just two of many. Northern Oklahoma College donated the use of their indoor baseball practice facility to host the indoor fly on Tuesday night. Autry also gave us space so we could lock up the golf carts and other supplies. Our city wanted to make your week away from home one of the best you've had in a long time, and it took a group effort to pull that off.

Marcy boogies her way through a mass ascension.

Scott Skinner
gives Marcy a Rev lesson.



Kiting: Oklahoma's Director of Tourism made an appearance and flew a kite with us, and the NBC affiliate from Oklahoma City ran a three minute segment. Were those big scores for Enid? **Marcy:** Huge. I wish I could say we planned to have the state tourism director and her staff visit on the same day a news photographer was here, but it was pure coincidence. Just the fact



See the coverage on NBC!



Marcy gets her first mass ascension pin.

that Oklahoma's tourism leader made a specific trip to Enid to experience the kitefliers' convention was big. Getting it captured on film and shown to a statewide television audience gave Enid bonus recognition. And the more free positive publicity Enid gets, the better.

Kiting: How much other work did you, Rob, and Shala skip by coming out to the kite field every day?

Marcy: All of it! But that's OK. Our main focus was to ensure that the needs of our out-of-town guests were met. And the fact that we got to have fun at the same time was rewarding. We met a lot of great people and have fond memories of our week hosting AKA. We hope you'll consider returning to Enid in 2015.

Kiting: You personally flew in the mass ascensions, got quad line lessons from Scott Skinner, flew a Rev indoors, bid on things in the auction, and finished second in the team rokkaku battle. What will you remember most?

Marcy: That's a tough one because there are so many wonderful memories. I think what I will remember most is the friendly, accepting and welcoming style of the AKA members. All during the week at the flying field they invited so many others to participate in the fun of flying kites: residents who showed up with and without children, special needs high school students out on a field trip, city workers, you name it. The AKA members helped Enid residents take pride in the wind that we take for granted every day. We hope the AKA members that came to Enid as attendees, left as friends.



Novice Fighter Line Touch

- 1 Catherine Gabriel
- 2 Ronda Brewer
- 3 David Corning

Novice Fighter Skills

- 1 Charles Stewart
- 2 Pam Hodges
- 3 Dean Murray

Experienced Fighter Line Touch

- 1 Andy Selzer
- 2 Dave Young
- 3 Sharon Champie

Experienced Fighter Skills

- 1 Gary Goodenough
- 2 Bob Hegman
- 3 Dave Young



FIGHTER AND ROKKAKU COMPETITION RESULTS



Individual Rokkaku

- 1 Ronda Brewer
- 2 David Gomberg
- 3 Gary Goodenough

Team Rokkaku

- 1 Team Good Brew
(Ronda Brewer, Gary Goodenough)
- 2 Team Sooners
(Mike Mosman, Marcy Jarrett)
- 3 Team Question Mark
(Donna Houchins, Karl Berg)

Edeiken Award: Richard & Marti Dermer

"For more than 30 years, our nominee has worked to teach kids to fly kites and has appeared at dozens if not hundreds of events with kite kits and packets of information for teachers. For more than 30 years, our nominee has promoted the AKA and kiting with information tables, free magazines, and a delightful exhibit of miniature kites. For more than 30 years, our nominee has consistently been one of the top recruiters of members to our Association...."

Lee Toy Circle: Robert Brasington

"... love of architecture and nature are the foundation for his designs and keen use of color gradients resulting in a recognizable, unique and innovative style."

Volunteers of the Year: Board Members' Spouses and Partners

Regional Director of the Year: Ed Grys



Ingraham Award: George Emmons

"When George started Into The Wind in 1980 with Jim Glass, he did so with the philosophy that if you promoted kiting first and offered your customers quality products, sales would follow. That philosophy seems to have worked because Into The Wind now employs 20 people and is easily one of the most recognized names in the selling of kites...."



KAPtions

MEMBERS' CHOICE BY JIM POWERS

Kite people love pictures of kites! The 2012 AKA Members' Choice award goes to Darrin Skinner with his shot *Octopi out of Water* (back cover). The photo captures a portion of the famous Berkeley Octopile. Darrin reached back in time and selected an image from July 2008 that KAPtured a wonderful shot above the Berkeley Kite Festival in Caeser Chavez Park, just east of the Golden Gate Bridge. At the top of the photo you can see the Berkeley Marina. Darrin stated that the "old timers still call the site North Waterfront Park," which sits on top of 119 acres of landfill and is known for its stiff wind. Darrin repeats as KAP champion two years in a row.

Sebastian Kaliszewski from Poland KAPtured 2nd and 3rd place. The 2nd place image is a neat straight down shot taken with a GoPro HD Hero 1 camera. The KAP rig was lifted by 6.5' rokkaku made by Sebastian and his 5-year-old daughter. The 3rd place image is all about shadows of people on a beach with the shadows forming an imaginary tall ship in the sand. The image was taken with the GoPro HD Hero 1 camera. The KAP rig was lifted by another Sebastian handmade kite, a uGetak kite (slashed and bowed rhombus box kite). Both images demonstrated how creative work can be done with simple lightweight cameras using autoKAP.

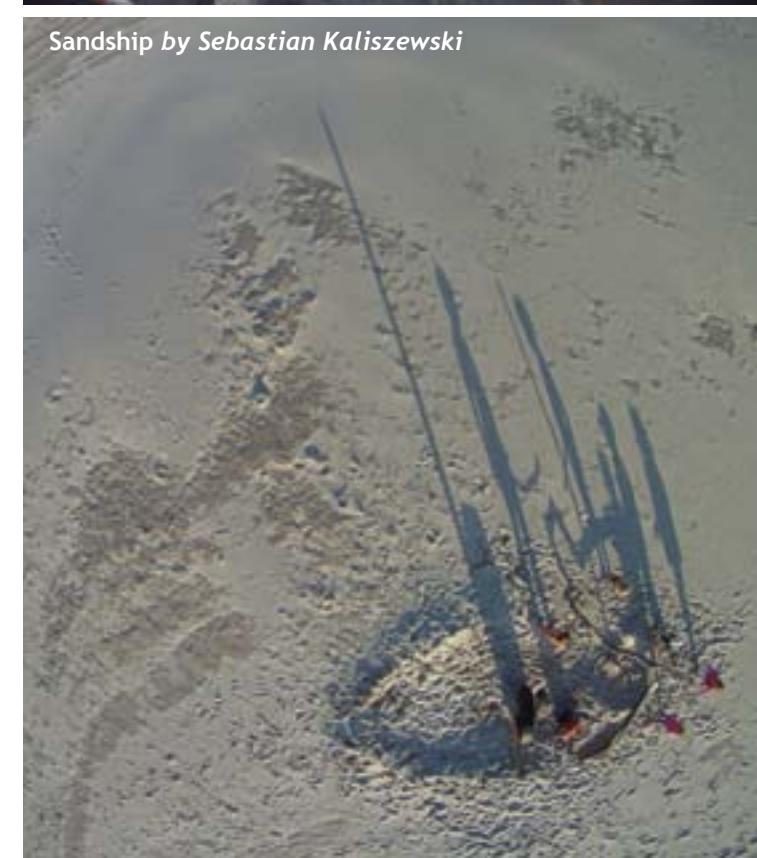


Berck Boardwalk by Darrin Skinner

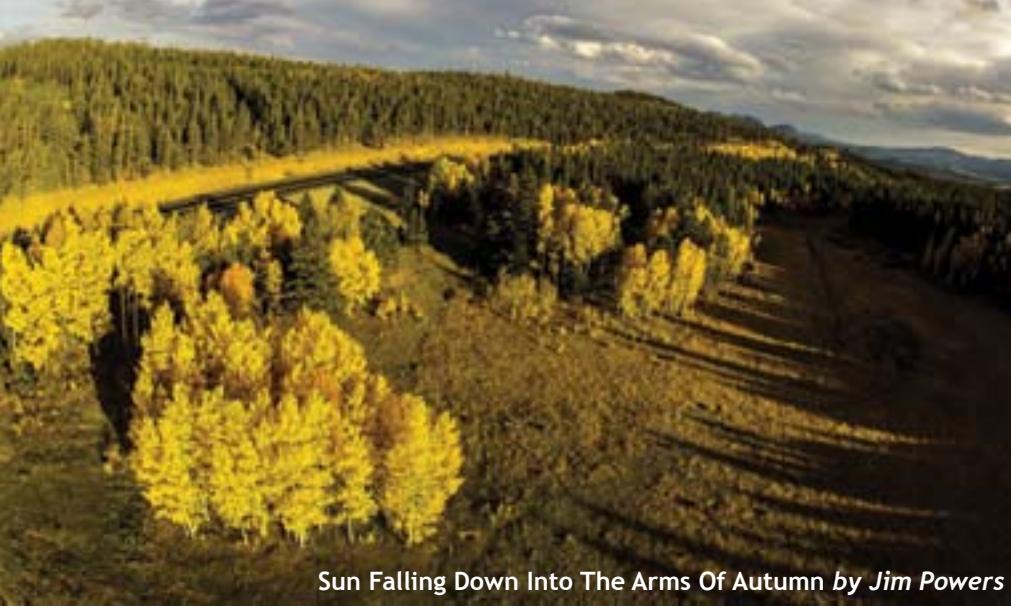
Sparkling Blue Bay by Darrin Skinner



Sappers Monument in Warsaw, Poland
by Sebastian Kaliszewski



Sandship by Sebastian Kaliszewski



Sun Falling Down Into The Arms Of Autumn by Jim Powers



Above Werfen, Austria by Jim Powers



Above the Ben Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia by Jim Powers



Sheep Meadow in Central Park
by Sebastian Kaliszewski



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REGIONAL REPORTS

Region 1 ~ New England CT-NH-MA-ME-RI-VT-NY



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Cranston, RI
401/942-3606
region1@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2013

cleared just after noon for us to go on the field flying and Kevin making bubbles in some rather gusty winds. I think the visitors to the park were surprised and amazed. This is another great area to fly in Upstate NY.

KONE flew at many beaches in MA, NH, ME and RI for their events.

An all New England indoor fly is now on the schedule. Look for other indoor flies.

ConnectiKITERs celebrated their 25th year as a kite club with a potluck dinner at Harkness State Park in September. Other club flies were held at Hammonasset State Park, and Savin Rock in West Haven. Wednesday afternoon flies were held at Sherwood Island State Park. A special fly was held at Meadow Ridge, Redding, CT. Word

I got from Ray Hilson said that many members enjoyed flying kites and entertaining residents of Meadow Ridge in September. Again, the wind was gusty, but fortunately the retirement home is located on top of a hill with distant views. Several of the members helped the residents rekindle their childhood memories by letting them fly single-line kites. The OSOW fly was held at Savin, CT. After a rainy start we had a good turnout with kites filling the sky from single-lines to twelve stacks. The wind was a little free-spirited with southwest winds gusting between 15-20MPH. It was cloudy when the first kite was launched, but by 2PM the sun was shining.

Thanks to Dave Tuttle, Archie Stewart, Jim Peck and Ray Hilson for their contributions to this report.

Region 2 ~ Northeast NJ-PA-(lower) NY



Brad Weiner
Williamstown, NJ
856/229-3745
region2@aka.kite.org
End of term: 2013

the High Fly Kite Company.

Joyce Quinn sends, "The Hindu Temple in Coplay, PA, contacted Pocono Kite Symphony to help them with their first kite festival. It was held in September and the day was perfect. We decorated the grounds with our flags and banners. We set up a place for kite building for kids and also assisted in flying their kites. We held bol races and not only the kids wanted to do it, some of the adults got hooked on it also. They had a blast. For their first event they had a very good turnout. For our efforts and expertise they treated us to a traditional lunch. They plan on making it an annual event."

The Coney Island Kite Festival enjoyed a beautiful September day.



Hello everybody in Region Two and thank you for being a part of the AKA. Here is what's happening in your area.

In August, South Jersey Kite Flyers had their final summer fly on Brigantine Beach, NJ. One of the highlights of this event was Mike Dallmer Jr.'s new Peter Lynn Ray in a hot rod motif. SJKF just had their 18th Anniversary Bash in October, and in November met at the home of Fran and Mary Gramkowski, as they continue to sell off the remaining inventory of

Dave Tuttle

Cherry Valley Kite Festival



"At the end of September four of us were able to go to Sunfest. It was sunny, but we felt we were being sandblasted on and off during the day. October's business meeting was followed the next day by a repair workshop. To really jump the gun, we are all looking forward to our New Year's Kickoff Dinner to be held in January."



Look for the new Keystone Kiter banner, courtesy of OzFeathers.

Paul Keeler writes, "A group of kiting friends from the Lehigh Valley area gathered at Louise Moore Park on October 14 for One Sky One World. Our little group of fliers usually gets together the first Sunday of each month and any other Sunday that looks like a good day to fly kites! We welcome anybody else in the area to stop in and join in the fun."

Todd Little says, "The Keystone Kiteers held their annual summer retreat. We made Magic Deltas which are truly magical! This 11' kite, originally designed by Jerry Sinotte, can be packed into a bag that is only 20" x 4"! Cliff Quinn added his own special insights and shipped us the parts but was unable to make the event himself due to another commitment with the Ronald McDonald House."

The third quarter of 2012 has been very quiet in Region Three. Labor Day brought the return of the Mile High Kite Festival atop Beech Mountain, NC. As usual the winds were low, and Sunday there was a little rain again, but not so much of a washout as last year. On Saturday night we had a terrific night fly and several of the big kites were up. One of the members of WACKOS had a blinking light on a ghost delta, and several people commented on how it would be interesting to put one inside the eye of the white octopus he was also flying.

September 15 saw the return of the Richmond Washington Regional Sport Kite Competition. There were six Novice competitors and only two of them had any competition experience. There were ten other competitors at the Experienced and Masters level. This event is focused on new competitors. Each novice was given one-to-one attention by a mentor.

September 29 brought back the Coyner Springs kite event with lots of activities sponsored by the City of Waynesboro and organized by Jeff May. There was a good turnout except for the wind, right up until quitting time, when it blew nicely for a couple hours.

Several fliers from Region Three headed to OBSDC in October and had a wonderful time on the Wright Brothers Memorial grounds, and at the First Flight High School where there was an Indoor competition and demonstration with five fliers.

On October 19 Donald Jacobs from the GOT WIND? Club in Roanoke, VA, led a team demonstrating and talking about kites, and sharing history, tips, and fun facts about kites to over 2500 students.

Region 3 ~ Mid-Atlantic DC-DE-MD-VA-WV



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End of term: 2013

They shared the *Kites in the Classroom* curriculum with as many of the teachers as possible. He also signed up over two dozen potential new club members just by inviting them to come fly with him and asking for their e-mail information.

Beginning in January, the Richmond Air Force will hold its annual Chili and Chinese Gift Exchange. Later, some Region Three members are headed for the sport kite event in Treasure Island, FL, and some of the winter workshops. The Cherry Blossom Kite Festival will have its indoor event on the March 23 and the outdoor festival on the 30th. Frederick County, VA, is planning their annual event for the first Saturday in April. Al Ault and Evelyn Rossbach report they will be putting on their annual Bel Air Kite Festival on April 13. RAF has already started work on their big event in Salem for April 20.

Sandy Miguel



Tom Miguel remembered 9/11 with this kite.

If you have an event coming up please put it on the AKA calendar, and send in a report as soon as it is over so I may include your story in the next issue of *Kiting*. If you don't have e-mail you may call me in the evening and let me know what is happening, tell me about your kiteflying, or just visit.

Stay warm, build a few new kites and banners, and I hope to see you on a kite field when it warms up.

Region 4 ~ Southeast AL-FL-GA-KY-MS-PR-NC-SC-TN



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End of term: 2013

This is the Region Four update for the Winter issue. Really? Winter? As you may or may not agree, 2012 has flown (pun, pun). Really it seems like just yesterday we were talking about National Kite Month, and then the hot summer.

We have had a few festivals in the region, including the ECKFC Monthly Fun Flies in Gulf Shores, AL, the Kitty Hawk Kites 34th Annual Wright Kite Festival in Kill Devil Hills, NC, the Kitty Hawk Kites Beach Kite Festival in Destin, FL, the Beech Mountain Mile High Kite Festival in Beech Mountain, NC, the Kitty Hawk Kites 26th Annual Outer Banks Stunt Kite Competition in Kill Devil Hills, NC, and the One Sky One World Fun Fly in Pensacola Beach, FL.

Remaining on the calendar are the Carolina Kite Fest XXV in Atlantic Beach, the Atlanta World Kite Festival and Expo, and the Cape Fear Kite Festival in Wrightsville Beach, NC. These festivals will be over by the time you get this issue of the magazine. So you may be asking, why is he listing the events, we check the website and see them, we even attend some of them. I hope that is true. Are you aware of the AKA resources online? Have you checked out the Region Four calendar, made sure your event was posted so that others could attend?

Browsed the discussion on the forums? And lastly is supplying articles for *Kiting* and the regional update. Without news from the membership how else will the word get out on these great festivals? If they reoccur yearly, you can draw more people by just letting people know how great it was.



The Beech Mountain Mile High Kite Festival over Labor Day weekend is a family and community event that continues to grow. It started with just a few kitefliers meeting on the mountain and continues to grow as the Chamber arranged a street dance, arts and crafts, kite vendor, food and other tents with people selling their wares. We love going to this festival every year, the weather on Labor Day weekend is always nicer in the mountains with cool evenings and mild days. Unfortunately, we've been hit by the remnants of a hurricane or two over the years, and this year was one of those times. Luckily there was a lot of festival before the major rain came; many thanks to the members who helped quickly move the Maxi-Ray out of the rain and under a canopy before the sky really opened up, made drying it much quicker. The festival is sponsored by the Chamber and Calder Smoot, brother of Region Three Director Will Smoot, and draws kiters from Wings Over Washington, Richmond Air Force, Wings Across Carolina Kiteflying and Okra Society, and Carolina Kite Club. It's always good to see kitefliers every year at these events.

Karen Mault sends, "A three day event called the Tuna Run 200 happened on October 19-21. It's an overnight relay from Raleigh to Atlantic Beach. On Saturday the Carolina Kite Club was asked to put color in the sky for the finish of the Tuna 200 Run. The winds were perfect, the temperatures were mild and there was a variety of kites in the air.

Happy wishes to you and yours! Keep the wind at your back.

Hello Region Five. The Port Sanilac Kite Festival was held on July 28. The Windjammers reported good weather and a good crowd. The people that came out to watch had a good time and they also helped a few of them learn to fly. Thanks to Susan Gill for organizing this.

Kites over Branch County occurred on July 28-29 and was lots of fun as usual. There were enough attendees that the organizers didn't lose money, but few enough that we were able to complete the competition on Saturday. Many of the fliers stayed overnight and returned Sunday to entertain everyone that came by. Thanks to John and Suzette Arnold and Tom and Kathe Deck for organizing this.

The 26th Annual Cleveland Kite Festival was September 8-9 in Lakefront State Park. This is a family-oriented festival with games for the public, wind sprints for kids, kitemaking workshops, rokkaku battles and a mystery battle. Thousands

Region 5 ~ Great Lakes MI-OH



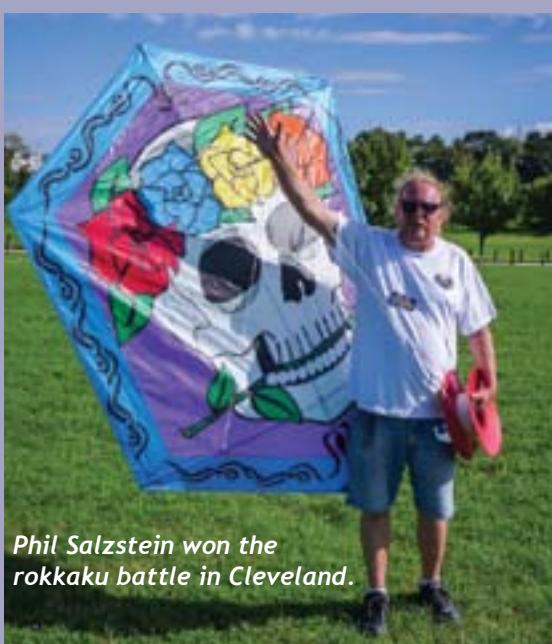
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End of term: 2014

of people enjoyed the good weather and the winds off Lake Erie. The fliers included Lee Sedgwick, Con Engels, a quad-line team from the Columbus/Dayton area, flyers from Ontario, plus local members from as far away as Youngstown. Phil Salzstein won the Line Laundry Contest — his entry included actual laundry hung with actual clothes pins! — and also the rok battle.

The Windjammers were invited to the 17th Dieppe International Kite Festival held in France this year so had to miss CKF. James, Mike, Gary, Jean and George flew their Vector RC Kites, rode the original "big wheel" bikes, and made many new friends.

While on vacation this summer I was drawn to some big kites near the breakwater in Petosky, MI. I discovered the 11-member P-Town Flyers, and met Al Carey and Mike Griffes. They'd never heard of the AKA. They just fly big beautiful kites and share the joy with anyone interested. It was a joy to behold.

Hospice of Michigan's grief support services staff created a special kiteflying event called Fly and Remember where individuals who have lost a loved one come together to fly kites in their memory. The first statewide Fly and Remember events were held in Royal Oak, Traverse



Phil Salzstein won the rokkaku battle in Cleveland.

City, Ludington, Ann Arbor, Fremont, Saginaw and Alpena. Hospice of Michigan gave each participant a kite and supplies to decorate them. Then participants flew their kites in unison. They shared stories and memories, and grief support staff and volunteers facilitated. Participants raved about how touching yet enjoyable the event was. Visit www.hom.org/ for more information.

The 2013 events I'm currently aware of are:

St. Johns, MI, is going to hold their 2nd Annual Splash Park Fund Raiser and Kite Festival on May 5. This will be at Uncle John's Cider Mill again. Last year was fun despite the thunder and lightning south of us. They will have many more fliers this time including the WindJammers, plus Fire and Ice. They are planning kite ballet, fighter kites, kitemaking, and the Mint Queen and her court will preside over one or more of the (mint) candy drops.

The Grand Haven Kite Festival is scheduled for May 17-19. This is currently the largest kite festival in Michigan. Next year will be the 25th anniversary.

Lyon Township is going to repeat their very popular kite festival on June 8. This is the closest to home event for my kite club and we always have a blast. Even with 50MPH gusts last year, we still had fun. It has to be better next year!

Kites and Fun Things and the 4 Seasons Kite Club are planning a new festival to be held at the Metro Beach Metropark in Harrison Township, north of Detroit, on the western shore of Lake St. Clair. The tentative dates are June 15-16. Watch the AKA event calendar for details.

Region 6 ~ Midwest IA-IL-IN-MN-WI



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End of term: 2014

surprised and delighted to be honored as Regional Director of the Year. I thank Barb Meyer and all those in Region Six who support the AKA and the activities that go on in the region. I would also like to thank Barb for her three years of service as President of the AKA during some tough economic times.

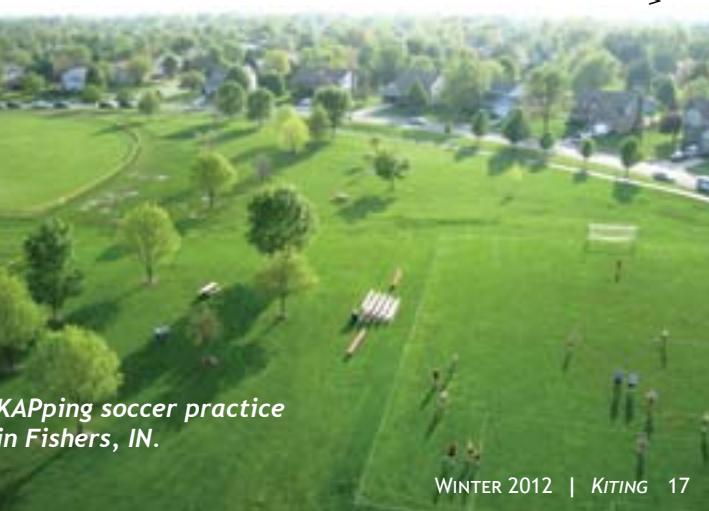
There were numerous events in the region this summer. One in Memphis, IN, was a benefit for tornado victims from Henryville. It was coordinated by Dave Zavell of Chicago Kite/Kite Harbor and featured such notable fliers as Dick and Sis Vogel.

The 25th annual Minnesota Flying Colors festival, held on August 18, was again highlighted with kids' kitemaking (led by Dave Herzog), good attendance and low winds. The colorful and attractive ground display by Pam and Dale Bowden added greatly to the festivities. There were

bol races, a candy drop and a glider drop. Ken Wilkowski coordinated the Grand Prix and Brad Klages helped keep everything on track.

The Wisconsin Kiters club was again invited to fly at the 39th Lincoln Balloon Fest in Lincoln, IL, on August 25-26. The flying was good and the balloons were spectacular. This has been an outstanding event for all involved.

The largest festival in the region is Kites Over Lake Michigan, on September



Kapping soccer practice in Fishers, IN.



The Windjammers get rolling in Dieppe.

1-2. The winds were gusty on Saturday but near perfect on Sunday. Chow Chong of Unique Flying Objects coordinates with the community to make this event happen. This is what Mike Boucher, a Wisconsin newcomer kiter wrote about the event: "Labor Day weekend in the Midwest is often considered the last big vacation time of the summer. What better way to spend it than attending the annual Kites Over Lake Michigan event in Two Rivers, WI? Many event sponsors come together to provide an activity for the whole family to enjoy. All of this is held on the beautiful sandy beaches of Lake Michigan. On Saturday there are kiteflying demonstrations to watch, night kite flying, and a huge fireworks show. On Sunday there are more demonstrations and kids' kite building. There is also lots of great food available, put together by local community groups. This is an event that really helps to bring newcomers to the joy of kiting. There is always plenty of room on the beach for everyone with a kite. There is no fee to attend this event. Families pack up the kids and the sunscreen and bring a blanket to roll out on the beach. You can't help but feel relaxed at the event, like you are just a part of the community having fun in the sun with kites!"

Other notable events included the September 9th DeKalb, IL, fly with a good turnout and outstanding color provided by Linda and Randy Larky, among others. Dave Zavell coordinated this event, as well as the Day at the Beach Kite Fly in Waukegan, IL.

A new location for flying in Door County, WI, was used twice this summer by area flyers. LeAnn Lauer writes about the Carlsville Fun Fly: "Thanks to Bill Miller for finding us a nice field to fly on in lovely Door County. Harbor Village invited us to entertain their campers. The wind gods made it possible for us to put on a great show all afternoon. Traffic stopped along the highway to take a break as they were heading north and lots of photos were taken. Looking forward to maybe making it a camp and fly next year."

The One Sky One World events in the region were hit and miss due to the weather. The Wisconsin events were washed out with some much needed rain. Some fliers got together the following week to celebrate the event.

Upcoming events include the largest Midwest winter festival, Color the Wind, in Clear Lake, IA, on February 16. This will be its twelfth year, coordinated by Larry and Kay Day.

U-MAKE, the Upper Midwest Area Kitemaking Event, is moving this year and will be held on March 1-3 at the Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon, IL. Featured this year will be classes by Simon Crafts, presenting an original single line kite, Barbara Meyer presenting a cellular kite and other classes by Donna Schenk, Charm Lindner, and Linda Larkey.

Hope to see you at U-MAKE or Clear Lake. Keep looking up and hold on tight.

Region 7 ~ Great Plains CO-KS-MO-ND-NE-SD-UT-WY



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End of term: 2014

Ladies and gentleman, better times are already under way for your AKA. Time for us to all come together, share your photos, stories, ideas, volunteer a little time, whether it's coordinating a big kite festival, helping a kid re-adjust a bridle on a cheap kite, or even taking a moment to share kite tales with your Facebook friends (on or off our AKA page).

National Kite Month (NKM) is only a few months away in April. Please start planning your NKM and spring 2013 kiting events now, enter any and all of your kite events on the AKA Calendar online. You can also request AKA sanctioning for your event for additional cost. Recording your event on the Calendar, or notifying me about it gives me more time to help you promote it. Spring gets extremely busy for me so it's first come, first served. Lots of kite festivals happening on the same day and lots of organiza-

Bonnie Heimericks launches in Columbia, MO.



tions call at the very last minute asking me to help them with their festival, many unfortunately pick the same days as major festivals already scheduled.

By far the big event for Region Seven was on Labor Day weekend, the Antelope Island Stampede Festival in the Great Salt Lake, UT. One of my predecessors, Kevin Bayless, has already set up much of the itinerary for the 2013 AISF.

The second Sunday every October has become an international kite day, people worldwide simply fly kites as a symbol of peace, in honor of One Sky One World. Donna Houchins reports from Columbia, MO: "This was the all-Missouri kite clubs get-together for OSOW. We had challenging conditions, including rain and gusts over 30MPH after it cleared out, but we managed to fly for most of the day! We had quite a bit of press come out too, so we're hoping for some good newspaper articles."

In Denver, the founders of OSOW held a kids kite workshop at the Children's Museum. Mile Hi Kite Club's Paul Glasspoole and Howard Bashant volunteered to do kite demos, while a few of us opted to return for the fifth year to Stapleton's Central Park. At that time of year, winter begins to roll in. Despite the unpredictable weather extremes, we actually had the best weather for OSOW this year.

I would also like to promote November 1, "Dia de los Muertos" or All Saints Day, which is the kite day most of you have heard about in Guatemala. We may not get much accomplished this year, but I do have a contact that hosted us before who works for a large cemetery and funeral needs company as an event coordinator. We already do a kite fly for Ching Ming, a Chinese holiday in the spring honoring the dead which traditionally includes kites, and a Memorial Day Fly at a cemetery in conjunction with their other events.

Any ideas you may have for kite events? Please call or e-mail me sometime!

Hello, I am Guy Blatnik, your new Region Eight director. I have been flying seriously for about 20 years and competed for about 10 years. I currently fly with Team SPI. You can see me most weekends on the flats by the SPI Convention Center flying or in the hotter months, on the beautiful beaches of South Padre Island.

The first Saturday of the month, the members of SPIKE, get together to fly and talk kites. Membership is free and

Region 8 ~ South Central AR-LA-NM-OK-TX



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End of term: 2015

there is no hierarchy to mess with. On the flats there is lots of room for everybody. You can see buggiers, serious sport fliers, the not-so-serious fliers and even beginners.

I would like to thank all those members of Region Eight that made it to Enid this year. Sorry that I was otherwise tied up and couldn't make it there.

The next big event in our region will be the Great Texas Kite Club Fly in Rockport, December 1. After that, we will have the SPI Kitefest, February 1-3. There will be indoor flying with Lisa Willoughby, and iQuad teaching in the first part of the day and the indoor demos at night. Saturday and Sunday will be at the flats with all the show kites and sport kite demos. This is the biggest kite fly in the region.

In March, there will be festivals in Cane Hill, AR; Zilker Park in Austin; Sugarland, TX; Stonewall, TX; Spiro Mounds, OK; and San Antonio. The season starts early, and there will be kite festivals almost every weekend from March to June, when it starts to get too hot.

By the time you receive this magazine, I hope to have regional e-mails going out regularly. To receive these, please subscribe on the AKA website. If you have anything that you want in this column, please contact me. If you are have an event, workshop, fun fly or kite fest, please put it on the AKA calendar. This is one of the best ways to get it out to the kitefliers.

Larry Stiles and Luella Kramer play on the fighter kite field in Enid.



With the leaves in full color and snow in the near future, it is hard to look at the long cold winter ahead. It can be a bit of a gloomy time for some kitefliers. But look at the bright side of this, and you have long winter days to recharge the creativity in the kitemaking room! Yes, it is that time again for us to be designing, and spewing ripstop about the house!

With that in mind, you have a great opportunity coming up very quickly. The Oregon Kitemaker's Retreat is well under way and the time to get your registration in is now! The line-up of classes is fantastic this year. Instructors Holm Struck, Ron Bohart, Alexa King, Martin Blais, Ann Huston, Sam King, Alexa King, Tom McAlister, Bary Crites, Cliff and Gerry Pennell, Suzanne Sadow, and Deb Cooley will be joining forces to make the 20 year anniversary of OKR the best ever. For those of you that are new to kitemaking, do not hesitate for a minute about going. I went as a newbie to kiting and everyone there was incredibly helpful. I would recommend you check out all the information at the website www.kitemakersretreat.com or contact Diane Weber at okr1@comcast.net.



Rod Beanguard at the Lincoln City Fall Kite Festival.

Speaking of new, I would like to welcome Region Nine's own John Barresi as our AKA President! We look forward to a great year, and some great things to come with John on the line.

I would also like to welcome a new merchant member to Region Nine. The Livingston Kite Company in Livingston, MT, has just been awarded second place in the Best of Livingston Annual Reader Poll in the *Livingston Current*. Chris "Chip" Njaa, shares his kiting and kitemaking skills in the area classrooms. With KAP photography outdoors to minia-

Region 9 ~ Intermountain ID-MT-OR



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End of Term: 2015

ture kitemaking with students, the feedback has been positive and enlightening. Chip refers to the classes as "Applied Math and Science." The store's motto, "Make peace with the wind," is one we can all relate to. For more information visit them on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/livingstonkitecompany.

Great news from our members in Idaho! There is a new kite club playing in the skies over Idaho Falls! The Bengal Breeze Kite Club is a student organization at Idaho State University. Bill Hayes is the staff advisor for the club. Bill has visited us out on the Oregon Coast a few times and is a great promoter of kiting. Teaming up with Dean Turnblom of Sunrise Kites, Bill will be working towards a club sponsorship of the Idaho Falls Kite Festival next spring. Anyone interested in joining the Bengal Breeze Kite Club can contact Bill Hayes at hayewill@isu.edu or call 208/534-8085. The Idaho kite community is strong and growing!

We look forward to a great year of growth in Region Nine! See you soon on a kite field near you!



A pile of whales in Lincoln City.

Region 10 ~ Northwest AK - WA



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End of Term: 2015

Hello Region Ten! What a great summer we've had. The last outdoor competition and festival was at Whidbey Island. Sometimes known for its light wind, there were some creative juices flowing to overcome the problem. A quad routine flown with the spotters holding the kites the whole time, and an all new event, the 360 challenge. Both real crowd pleasers! It was also the first time I met Wen Jeng. Good times. The Whidbey Island Kite Festival gang did a great job.



The ground crew pitches in at Whidbey Island.

There are some exciting new things in the works for next summer, like an event swap with BASKL, and a couple new events here in the northwest. I look forward to getting to know more of you and serving you as your new Region Ten Director.



Conner McArthur
at WSIKF.

After 12 years away from our AKA Board, I am excited to be back for a fourth term. Although much has changed on the North American kite scene in 12 years, our passion and enthusiasm for kiting remains constant and is our unifying bond. Kiting connects us to people and to the world in a special way, and it never fails to keep us looking up.

First, a heartfelt thanks to John Gillespie and Brian Champie for all their years of service as regional directors. John remains active with Team Air Zone and all his amazing work with the AKA's website, and Brian continues to be one of the most connected kitefliers in our region. I am counting on both of you to help me do the best job I can over the next three years.

While I have always loved anything that flies, I first got seriously involved in kiting in the mid '80s and it has been both my avocation and vocation ever since. In addition to founding the Berkeley Kite Festival and Highline Kites of Berkeley, I have been an enthusiastic student and a passionate teacher of all forms of kiting.

If we have not yet met, I invite you to stop by for a visit at the Berkeley Marina, where since 1986, I have operated my "Solar-Powered Kite Shop on Wheels." Weather permitting, I am there most weekends.

At the end of the summer, Darril dela Torre took his family to the London Olympics. Stowed away in his luggage was a 12" Berkeley Kite Festival diamond. Darril managed to fly the kite at Stonehenge, in front of Big Ben, as well as the Louvre and Notre Dame cathedral during a quick trip to Paris.

Although I am sure I am in the minority, I have always been fascinated by the beauty of cemeteries and have seen them in my own twisted way as under-utilized parks. What better way to honor the dead, than to celebrate life directly above their memorials? Turns out I may not be crazy as you think. The Sky Lawn Memorial Park, in the hills of San Mateo, CA, made kiteflying a key component of its annual Cheung Yeung or Day of Remembrance Festival on October 20-21. The event was a magical combination of solemn reflection, lifted by the joy and optimism that comes from viewing and flying kites. Darrin Henderson of SF Kite Company put together a team that included the Berkeley Kite Wranglers, Brian Champie, Marty, Leslie and Zoe Culpepper, along with J.R. Tolman. Great job by everyone! I may have to find a way to participate with my 160' Chinese

Region 11 ~ N. California Northern CA-NV



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End of Term: 2015

centipede dragon kite next year.

In an effort to reach out to new fliers, BASKL hosted its second Fun Fly and Clinic at the Berkeley Marina on October 20. These workshops have been excellent at getting new fliers involved in our community. Many thanks to all the fliers and instructors who have made these gatherings successful in 2012. Look for more BASKL clinic-style events in 2013.



I see London, I see France: Darril dela Torre at Stonehenge and the Louvre.



Also in the new year, Highline Kites will sponsor a BASKL indoor fly in the East Bay. It is likely to take place sometime in February. If you have not yet seen the amazing new genre of low-to-no wind gliding kites such as the Emong, Skate, iFlight, Zero G and others, this indoor event will be an excellent chance to see these kites up close.

BASKL has been in talks with the North West Sport Kite League for an event swap. The idea is that BASKL members will attend the NWSKL's Westport Windriders event mid-July and a group from NWSKL will come down for the Berkeley Kite Festival on July 28-29. The

details are not finalized yet, so keep your eyes on www.BASKL.org for more info.

I am excited to be a first-time presenter at the Oregon Kite Makers' Retreat at the end of January. My students will build sculptural kites using handmade papers. We will incorporate folding and cutting techniques to create three-dimensional feather and leaf-like structures of simple elegance or surprising complexity. For more info about OKR 2012 visit www.kitemakersretreat.com.

Brian Champie must be the busiest kiter in our region and it seems he seldom misses an event. Attendees of the Ripon Color the Skies Festival were able to enjoy his kiteflying skills as he flew

Greetings Region Twelve! Long time no type! I am honored to be serving as your RD again and will do my best to promote kiting and good cheer. Speaking of which, I would like to thank Ben Dantonio for taking us around the world with him as he shared our passion with others. My job as RD has many facets: connect members with other members, help you get the word out when you have an event, assist you with the AKA organization and also direct interested parties from the "outside world" into ours. I am available almost 24/7 to do that and would welcome your communication.

Did you know we have three Affiliated Clubs and five Merchant Members within our Region? These Clubs and MM's support the AKA in many ways so look them up when you're thinking of flying, creating an event or even looking to buy a kite! That 10% savings from the MM's can pay for lines and hardware!

Late summer and fall in Region Twelve had a few kiteflying events that were Corey Jensen in Enid, hard at work for the US Office of Tethered Aviation.



with Team Too Much Fun. Though the winds were light, Brian says the hospitality was excellent and the fields were beautiful. He also made the trek south to Seal Beach in Southern California for the Japan America Kite Festival.

I am pleased to end my report with the happy ending to a longstanding mystery in our region. J.R. Tolman, the longtime kitemaking workshop leader who had been a staple at many Region Eleven events in the '80s and '90s, mysteriously fell off kiting's map about a dozen years ago. This fall he was spotted at two events and seems to be back in the kitemaking game. Glad to have you back, J.R., and I hope to see you and the rest of Region Eleven soon!

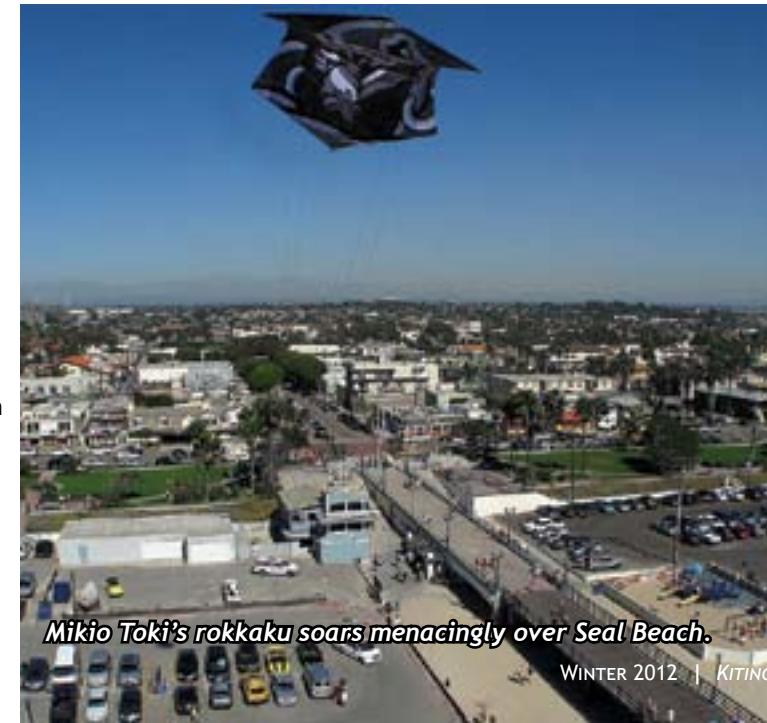
Region 12 ~ Southwest Southern CA-AZ-HI



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End of Term: 2015

notable. In August, the annual Up, Up and Away Kite Club's Night Fly converged on Seal Beach where the darkness was edged out by some high flyin' LED's and fiber optic flash. The club has their official monthly fly on the second Sunday of every month, but you can Rev up for that the day before at Tecolote Shores in San Diego, where on the second Saturday the San Diego Kite Club has its monthly fly. The SDKC always tries to bring new creativity (and food!) to each fly and they are all worth checking out.

October 14 had us back in Seal Beach for the 16th Annual Japan America Kite Festival. Every event has its bumps and grinds but the smiles on all the visitors were worth every ounce of effort given by the volunteers, demo artists, cultural organizers and the rest of the kiting commu-



Mikio Toki's rokkaku soars menacingly over Seal Beach.



Aaron Champie in the pits at Enid, trying to get things straight.

nity. For photos of the event check out Rick Spurgeon's KAP page <http://flickr.com/thekitedude> along with the official photos from Kerry Perkins at <http://kerryperkins.zenfolio.com/p688879969>.

New Year's Eve should have us in San Diego for the Fighter Kite Challenge and the following day filled with more kite antics courtesy of the SDKC. Check out www.sandiegokiteclub.com/ for more info.

The goal of the AKA is to share and have a healthy, strong, supportive membership. So, how about letting a little line out? As much as we love our Zen time, flying in peace, there's a fine line between those moments and bringing others into our little zone, allowing them to experience what we love. Don't be afraid to hand that kite line to a stranger who may someday become your best friend.

Best wishes and winds.

Region 13 ~ International



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End of Term: 2015

So, you think you've exhausted all the kite festivals or interesting destinations? But wait! There's more....

CANADA — Sharon Musto told of the busiest summer in years: Airdrie Summer Classic car show, a '50s Family Fun Day, Kites Over Callingwood — their 20th — and Wainwright's annual Family Kite Day. Imagine a TV commercial being filmed in Waterton National Park on the US/Canada border with Sharon and Bud Taylor as technical advisors, and the only non-performer was the wind?! Wayne Marshall, Calgary, enthralled a young fan with the intricacies of correct bridling — she looked more like she was the foreman for the job! Great news from AKA Convention: Adrian Conn made a triumphant return to kitemaking, scoring highest in Bowed kite competition, meanwhile enjoying the mood in Enid. Coincidence? I went to Dieppe, France, while Adrian lives on Dieppe Street, Ontario! David Hathaway hinted that iQuad may be heading Down Under in May 2013 to the Redcliffe Kite Festival (sunny Queensland, perfect in May). Another stamp in the passport, hmm?

ONE SKY ONE WORLD — Australia participated but winds were nasty. http://youtu.be/K_yf-N2LOPs. Sara and David Lyth's new kites managed to transplant some Tasmanian sand to the UK when they launched their new Brasington kites for the day. Eli and Shula Shavit (Israel) joined a group in Tel Aviv on a perfect-weather day.

KENYA — David and Susan Gomberg of Oregon travelled to Kenya to support a group of women entrepreneurs in the inaugural Kenya International Kite Festival. Future plans include flying in a

Young Kitemakers in Kenya made self-portrait kites.

national game reserve, mixing octopus and gecko with inquisitive giraffe and zebra.

ARGENTINA — Lost member has been found! Andrea Della Bianca went missing for a short time, but with the help of Gustavo Sonzogno and Gustavo Di Si, we are now back in touch! This explains what "kite family" means; AKA HQ couldn't find Andrea, they asked me, I asked my friends in Argentina, and Andrea was found! Hurrah.

KAZAKHSTAN — No active members yet, but Ibex Puppetry's Celebration of Flight (featuring Heather Henson, Curtiss Mitchell, Lisa Willoughby, and Heather Morrow) won Best Artistic Production at the World Puppetry Carnival in Almaty. See www.facebook.com/IbexPuppetry.

FRANCE — Dieppe Capitale du Cerf-Volant! This event started small in 1980, is now held every two years and has grown in world participation.

2012 was my first (and Kevin's third) visit. I anticipated meeting as many AKA Region Thirteen members as possible from the most countries all in one place. The Dieppe experience totally won me over. My high school French got an airing. Many, many international friends came to Dieppe (perhaps to see if I was real!) to join in ten beautiful days of internationally-flavoured kite reunions. Trevor & Hilary Hughes (UK) entered their kite in the competition called "The Five Elements: Treasures of Humanity," meaning Air, Space, Earth, Water and Fire.

Bernard and Marie Fournière (France) broke down the language barrier while keeping the kettle boiling. I was so honoured to meet the past Mayor's widow and I'm convinced she has the largest pin collection I've seen. Carole Cruikshanks (UK) took to the kite field as a new kite-convert; watch out Bob C! Shula Shavit and I discovered we had many colours in common. In the hope I don't miss anybody... Dieppe welcomed other AKA members Max Cardoso (Brazil), Rob Brasington (Australia), Louis le Blanc (Canada), Sandrine Frébourg (France, organiser), Wolfgang Bieck and Ralf Maserki (Germany), Robert Valkenburgh (Netherlands), Peter Lynn (New Zealand), Ron and Baew Spaulding (Thailand), plus AKA members from UK, Don Baggett, Keith Boxall (my purple twin), Godfrey and Karen Gamble (fond

memories from Bondi Beach), Karl and Sara Longbottom (I have your spar, Karl), Sara and David Lyth (too short a time in 2012), David and Janet Robinson (truly magic) and Phil Scarfe. Returning members Peter Hulcoop (UK) and Michael Alvares (Australia) added to the joy in the AKA tent. Not to mention Bernard's home-made champenoise.

AUSTRALIA - Hip, hip, hooray! Rob Brasington received the Lee Toy Award at the AKA Annual Convention in Enid, and Region Thirteen says "well done, Rob." Kevin Sanders returned from Dieppe, only to leave six days later for Bintulu International Kite Festival, which some say can compare as the Dieppe Festival of Asia. Rob Tulloch from West Australia, although new to kiting, now has a large kite bag to fill, starting with quad lines. He's also on Facebook, and finding out what kitefliers are really like!



A Brazilian tissue paper kite.

BRAZIL — The Convention welcomed Alexandre Gomes Giraldi, whose enthusiasm impressed Alexa King. She found him a keen learner with an excellent understanding of English. Alexandre told of a September festival in São Paulo, where kitemaking used coloured tissue, bamboo and truly stunning graphics.

ENGLAND — White Horse Kite Flyers run a crafting weekend workshop in October each year featuring new and different presenters. 2013 could well be sold out and standing room only if all goes to plan. The WHKF would like to run a "Linda Sanders' banner workshop," and to register please contact www.whkf.org.uk/contactnew.html. Dates are being planned for early October 2013, speak up now!

Until next time, less talk... more fly!



2013
American Kitefliers Association
Kiting Calendar



Photo: John Chiles, USA Kites: Revolution and Alden Miller, USA Location: Huntington Beach, California



Photo: John Chiles, USA Kites: Gary Dromgold, USA Location: Huntington Beach, California

January

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Robert Ingraham born – 1911</i>		<i>Benjamin Franklin born – 1706</i>		<i>Francis Rogallo born – 1912</i>		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<i>Martin Luther King Day</i>					<i>Break the ice with Paul de Bakker's smooth gliding Skate, www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314</i>	
28	29	30	31			
<i>Lawrence Hargrave born – 1850</i>						

February

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3			
	4	5	6	7	8	9
<i>Send your sweetie a Sweet 16 Delta on Valentine's Day. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314</i>		10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
<i>Presidents Day</i>						



Photo: Jim Martin Jr., USA

March

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

In honor of St. Patrick's Day,
check out the iFlites handmade by
Patrick Tan of Singapore.
www.intothewind.com
800/541-0314

Alexander Graham Bell
born – 1847

Daylight Savings Time
begins

National Kite Month
begins
Easter



Location: Kutch, India

Kite: Eugen Palmer, Austria

Photo: Phil Broder, USA

April

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Take the Trickster for a spin
on April Fools Day.
www.intothewind.com
800/541-0314





Photo: John Chiles, USA Kites: HQ Montana VII Location: Lake Ivanpanah, California

Xites: HQ Montana VII

Location: Lake Ivanpah, California

May



June

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	Surf's up! Billy the Crab heads to the beach for summer vacation. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314				1 <i>Convention registration opens</i>	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30



July

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>Independence Day</i>						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31		Start off July with a bang! Fly the USA Levitation Delta on the 4th. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314		



August

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	Enjoy the dog days of summer with a Sundog. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314	1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
					<i>AKA election nomination deadline</i>	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			<i>Convention early registration ends</i>			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	 <i>Paul Garber born – 1899</i>



Photo: Lori Robinson, USA Banners: Scott Hampton, USA Location: Antelope Island, Utah



Photo: Mary Murphy, USA Kites: Robert Brasington, Tasmania Location: Dieppe, France

September

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	Back to school – kite school that is – with a Paint A Diamond Kite waiting for your own design. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314				1	Edeiken and Ingraham Awards nomination deadline
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<i>Labor Day</i>						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

October

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>36th Annual AKA Convention and Grand National Championships, Seaside, Oregon</i>						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<i>Columbus Day</i>						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31	Let Batzilla fly and pumpkins gleam. Take to the sky on Halloween. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314		



November



December

M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	<p>Light up this Star 7 Box in the night sky on the winter solstice using our Nifty Kite Lights. www.intothewind.com 800/541-0314</p>					1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			<i>Domina Jalbert born – 1904</i>			
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

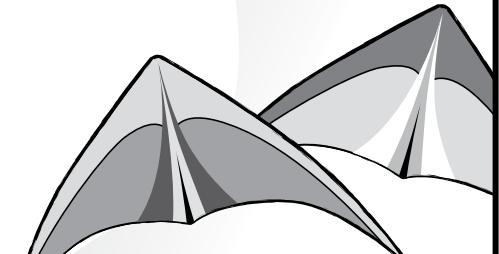
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Spring issue deadline: January 20
Summer issue deadline: April 20
Autumn issue deadline: July 20
Winter issue deadline: October 20

Send address changes to
UpdateAKA@aka.kite.org

Founded in 1964 by Robert M. Ingraham, the American Kitefliers Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating the public in the art, history, technology, and practice of building and flying kites.

EMPTY SPACES IN THE SKY

Barbara Hall

1929 - 2012

One of the most vibrant and enthusiastic members of our kite community died during surgery in August. She lived in the retirement community of The Villages in Orlando, Florida, where she could be found either teaching seniors how to fly kites or helping them build kites.

Barbara loved to travel. From Kathmandu to Timbuktu, she flew a kite wherever she went: 78 countries, all 50 states, seven continents, and several Canadian provinces. A jacket

she wore covered with pins and badges was the focus of many a conversation. She was an active member of the South Jersey Kite Flyers. As an annual participant in the Washington State International Kite Festival, she loved dropping her teddy bears by parachute from a kite. Her bear collection entertained many a fascinated child. In 2004 Barbara joined with a group of lady friends who formed a support group called the Lady Kiteflyers. This group of 160 kiteflier friends provided shared housing, transportation, plus assistance on the kite field and in kitemaking workshops.

We could all be inspired by Barbara's high level of commitment to the world-wide kiting community. Sadly, we say good-bye and we'll release a white kite in her memory.



Art Ross

1924 - 2012

Art was known for his huge flowform style kites with long billowing tails. When home in Vancouver, British Columbia, you could find him at Vanier Park flying one of his creations with his many friends of the British Columbia Kite Association. His first kite was a 200 ft² parafoil named *Blue Max* which inspired him to build his beautiful 1000 ft² *Red Baron*. His nineteenth and last kite was a 260 ft² flowform made for the Vancouver Winter Olympics.

He was born in Dinslaken, Germany. Art joined the German Army in 1942 and drove a tank deep into Russia. After the war he learned his profession in design and as a house painter. He came to Canada in 1954 and met his "Lovey", Inge, and was happily married for 56 years. Art's many hobbies included scuba diving, woodworking, home interior decoration, oil painting, growing tomatoes and making and flying kites.

Art bravely fought his battle with cancer. He had friends worldwide and was loved by all. His gentle peacefulness will be missed on the flying fields.

Larry Zilar



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PHOTOS BY STEVE NICOLS AND SHARI DEVEREAUX

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SPORTING LIFE

NOVICE MENTORING COMPETITIONS BY MARC CONKLIN

The Novice Mentoring Sport Kite Competition (NMSKC) format is a “grass-roots” competition format designed to provide a competitive learning environment for new sport kite competitors. The NMSKC format is comprised of three components:

1. Flight 101 – each novice is paired up with a volunteer experienced competitor for an hour of basic flight instruction.
2. Open competition – Experienced and Masters class competitors compete against each other while novices watch and/or shadow judge. This allows the novice to see how the competition works.
3. Novice competition – each open discipline is followed by its Novice counterpart, allowing the novice competitors to “see it, then do it”. The novice competition is followed by an extensive debrief with the judging panel.

Another basic tenet of the NMSKC format is that the event be done with as little expense as possible. Novices and first-time fliers should be allowed to participate in the competition for free. Open competitors should be charged as small a registration fee as possible. Keep in mind that your open competitors, while there for the competition, will also be called upon as mentors and judges for the novice competition, so registration fees should be kept to the least possible amount. Because the event will only collect a small amount of registration fees, operating costs must also be kept to a minimum. If possible, use a field that is free, hopefully with built-in bathroom facilities, such as at a local park or soccer field. The AKA event insurance can be a useful tool in procuring such a field; land-

lords will be more amenable to forgoing rent if their liability is minimized. If a PA system is available for free use it; otherwise, use a boom box, placed between the judges and the competitor, for music events. Use local resources only; there's no reason to pay for travel or hotel rooms for anyone for these events. The only items NMSKC organizers should invest in is AKA sanctioning, printing flight orders, figures and score sheets, and bottled water. It is a good idea to keep a cooler full of bottled water on hand, especially for warm-weather events. Another good investment is lunch. If possible, have some pizzas or other inexpensive lunch delivered to the field. It will provide some “compensation” to the open competitors who are also your mentoring and field staff, as well as providing a welcome to the novice competitors. A target budget for an NMSKC event should be \$300 or less.

Schedule

1. Flight 101 Novice mentoring (1 hour): pair each novice that shows up with an Experienced or Masters competitor who competes in the same discipline (dual- or multi-line). Each pair (novice and mentor) takes a section of the field(s) and works on whatever the pair decides is most important to help the novice win the competition that day. In most instances this will be as simple as working on straight lines and clean corners, landings, or perhaps just the basic skills to keep the kite flying.

2. Open Individual Precision (OIP or OMP): whichever discipline (dual- or multi-line) you have the most novices flying in should be the first precision event of the day. Because Novices are not allowed to fly Program Precision, all Precision should be flown in the traditional style. Experienced and Masters fliers compete using the same figures that the Novices will be competing with. Novices should be heavily encouraged to shadow-judge this event. The goal should be to have every novice shadow-judge at least one open event. This is essential to the learning process for competitors. Because you'll have a lot of shadow judges, expect this event to be the longest of the day, with lots of judge conversation between fliers. For scheduling, plan on 13 minutes per flier.

3. Novice Individual Precision (NIP or NMP) pre-flight briefing: this is the normal pre-flight meeting for the discipline, but make sure to take the time to thoroughly explain:

- a. bringing your kite onto the field and setup time limits
- b. boundaries and out-of-bounds rules
- c. time between figures, time between last figure and technical routine
- d. detailed figure explanation
- e. what to do in the technical routine
 - i. minimum and maximum time
 - ii. “do what you do best, don't repeat yourself, get out before the judges get bored”

4. Novice Individual Precision (NIP or NMP): the novices now have the opportunity to do what they watched (hopefully as shadow judges) the open competitors do. Having an experienced, patient field director is key to the Novice disciplines. For scheduling, plan on 11 minutes per flier.

5. Novice Individual Precision (NIP or NMP) Post-flight debriefing: this is essential. Immediately upon completion of the novice precision event, gather the novice competitors together



with their judging panel (this is also a good time for a lunch break). Have the judging panel review their notes with the novices (don't mention scores, just observations). Allow the novices to ask questions or make comments on the competing process. If a judge has a specific note for a specific flier, it's appropriate to discuss that during the debrief; just remember to be positive and constructive. For scheduling, plan on 30 minutes. If there are enough staff, the next event can start while this debrief is going on.

6. Repeat steps 2 - 5 for Individual (dual- or multi-line) Precision: get both of the precision events done first. Novices tend to gravitate toward precision rather than ballet, mostly because precision is not dependent on imagination or choreography. During the precision events, the ballet events should be promoted as a chance to “just have fun and show what you can do” to the novice fliers.

Sample Schedule (assuming three dual-line novices, two multi-line novices, four open dual-line fliers, three open multi-line fliers)

Time	Event	# Fliers	Total time
8:00 - 9:00	Field setup, novice registration	0	
8:30	Fliers meeting	0	15 min.
9:00 - 10:00	Flight 101	5 (+ 5 mentors)	1 hour
10:00 - 11:00	Open Dual-Line Precision (OIP)	4	52 min.
11:00 - 11:45	Novice Dual-Line Precision (NIP)	3	33 min.
11:45 - 12:30	NIP debrief, lunch break		
12:30 - 1:15	Open Multi-Line Precision (OMP)	3	39 min.
1:15 - 1:45	Novice Multi-Line Precision (NMP)	2	22 min.
1:45 - 2:15	NMP debrief		
2:15 - 2:45	Open Dual-Line Ballet (OIB)	4	20 min.
2:45 - 3:15	Novice Dual-Line Ballet (NIB)	3	15 min.
3:00 - 3:15	NIB debrief		
3:15 - 3:30	Open Multi-Line Ballet (OMB)	3	15 min.
3:30 - 3:45	Novice Multi-Line Ballet (NMB)	2	10 min.
3:45 - 4:00	NMB debrief		
4:30 - 5:00	Awards, final comments		30 min.



7. Open Individual Ballet (OIB or OMB): whichever discipline (dual- or multi-line) you started the day with should be the first ballet discipline as well. Again, attempt to get as many novices as possible to shadow judge the event. There will most likely be less shadow judges for the later events than the early ones. For scheduling, plan on 5 minutes per flier.

8. Novice Individual Ballet (NIB or NMB) pre-flight briefing: this is the normal pre-flight meeting for the discipline but make sure to take the time to thoroughly explain:

- a. bringing your kite onto the field and setup time limits
- b. boundaries and out-of-bounds rules
- c. minimum and maximum ballet time limits
- d. how to fly ballet
 - i. simplify it – “Ballet is flying in rhythm”
 - ii. “do what you do best, don't repeat yourself (unless the song calls for it), if there are big moments in the song, try to create a big moment with your kite”

9. Novice Individual Ballet (NIB or NMB): again, the field director is the most important person on the field. Make sure you have someone who is experienced, patient, and positive. For scheduling, plan on 5 minutes per competitor.

10. Novice Individual Ballet (NIB or NMB) post-flight debriefing: get the novice competitors and the judging panel together immediately at the conclusion of the discipline. Have the judging panel review their notes with the novices (don't mention scores, just observations). Allow the novices to ask questions or make comments on the competing process. If a judge has a specific note for a specific flier; it's appropriate to do that during the debrief, just remember to be positive and constructive. For scheduling, plan on 30 minutes. If there are enough staff, the next event can start while this debrief is going on.

11. Repeat steps 7 - 10 for Individual (dual- or multi-line) Ballet.

12. Awards: awards do not have to be extravagant; in fact, the best award is probably just a paper certificate with the competitor's name. What's more important is that the novices receive encouragement to continue competing and improving. Special emphasis should be placed on the next upcoming closest sport kite competition; make sure that every novice at the regional knows when and where the next competition is occurring. ☐

KITE PLAN

Ten years ago I wrote two articles in *Kiting* concerning bird kites (Summer 2001, Summer 2002). This is an updated version of the Summer 2001 article. My intent here is to present the basic knowledge necessary so someone could build, for example, a bald eagle kite. Due to space limitations, the information presented in this article is sketchy. I've been working on detailed plans, off and on, for a number of years but have yet to finish them. At some point I intend to make those available online.

In dealing with exact silhouettes, in almost all cases, to build the kite properly a special compound angle dihedral needs to be constructed which not only sets the wing spars back but up as well, running them along the leading edge of the bird's wing to the first wingtip feather. As far as kites go, this is a complex kite. In my personal opinion, in dealing with these silhouettes, this is as simple as it's going to get without sacrificing quality.

This kite's main features are:

1. The wing spars are locked into the dihedral, the purpose of which is to keep the wing strut(s) at the appropriate angle on both sides of the kite. The wing struts keep the sail's leading edge bent back at a consistent angle.
2. All parts are fixed.
3. These kites have no keels and act like gliders in low wind conditions. Ideally they should be constructed to float parallel to the ground (nose slightly up) when the wind dies and be made as light as possible.

Wing Spreader

The biggest problem with the kite is the wing spreader. To best illustrate its potential for problems consider the hawk as a flat quad line kite. Bridle points are A and B (one handle) and C and D (other handle). A and C on top are fixed to the upper wing spar (non-movable). B and D are movable forward or backward, the hinge being the vinyl connectors at A and C. If B is allowed to move more forward or backward than D the

kite will cant or loop in one direction. After years of struggling with this problem, trying to correct it with varying remedies, I concluded the following:

1. The vinyl connector (hinge) should be tight yet able to move when you manually apply pressure to it.
2. No "spring" pressure should be exerted on the wing spreader (effectively bending it).
3. Push the vinyl connector back until it bottoms out. It forms a natural stop against the sail because of the nub on the end of the vinyl tubing.
4. The sail at B and D is pushed back allowing some wind to spill, but not to the point that it affects silhouette integrity.
5. Look here first to correct your cant or looping problems. Note: In the photograph the blackbird, flicker, and magpie have no wing spreaders and are able to keep their silhouette integrity even in stronger winds. Eliminate it if you can.

Billow

The sail between D and E needs to be loose (not taut) creating a pocket or billow (dotted area in the diagram). This billow acts as a stabilizing mechanism. The depth of the billow is set by how much up or down is constructed to the "Y" in

the dihedral. The billow can be adjusted by applying more pressure to the wing brace effectively pushing up on the wing spars (decreasing the billow). To increase the billow, shorten the wing brace by tying a string between the vinyl connectors of the wing brace effectively pulling down on the wing spar. Try repositioning the dihedral up or down along the spine. Build your dihedral correctly and no billow adjustment is necessary. Use the minimum billow necessary. Experiment with varying depths. (Note: To achieve the proper billow the flicker silhouette required a slightly inverted "Y" dihedral.)

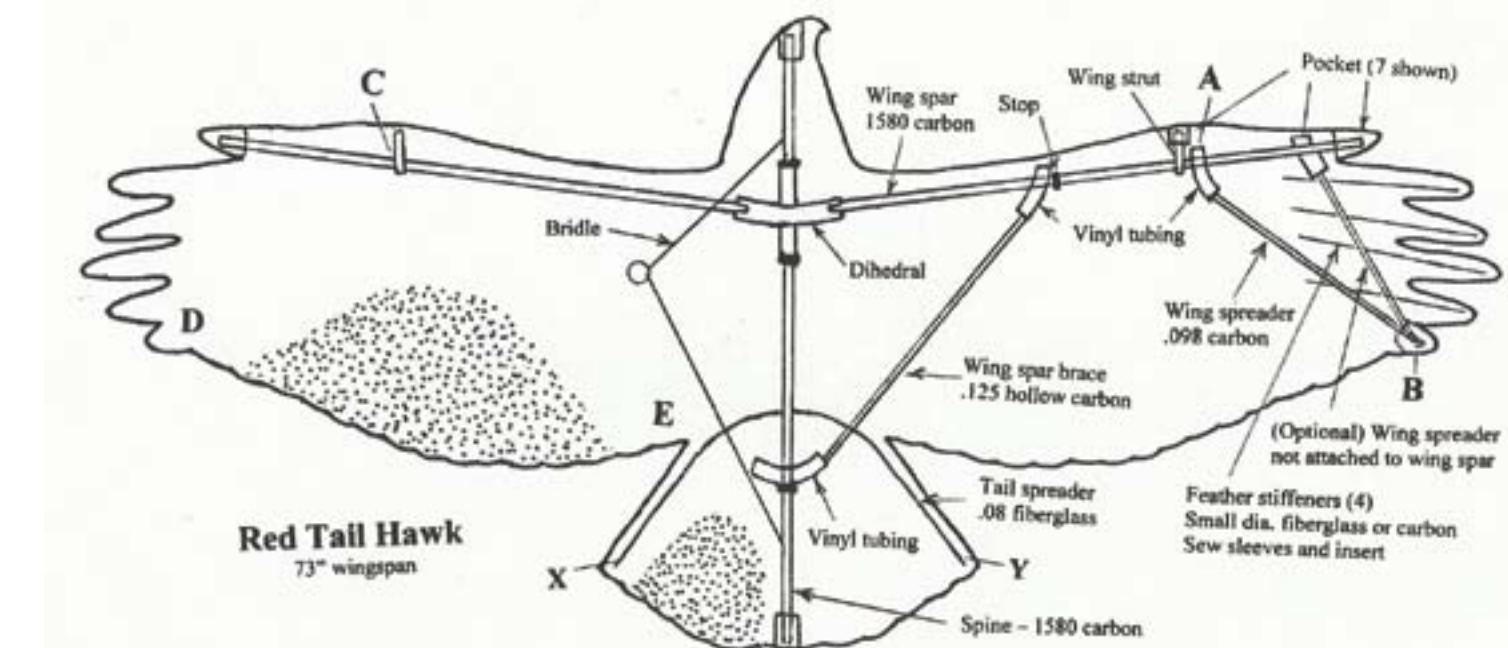
Tail

On some of the birds the tail is flip-flopy, twisting from side to side. In light winds this doesn't seem to present a problem but I think it can or does cause problems

BIRD KITES BY PETE SHERAGY



in stronger winds. To eliminate tail twist run your lower wing brace vinyl connector below the tail spreader and route your wing braces under the tail spreader. (The tail spreader is routed under the spine.) Note: do not make the wing braces too long so they interfere with the billow.



I previously mentioned that a billow is a stabilizing mechanism. In wide fanned tails you can form billows by attaching a string between points X and Y. The depth of the billows are adjusted by the length of the string. This string also eliminates tail twist so there is no need to use your wing braces to accomplish this. This forms a billow on each side of the spine. In strong winds this has a very noticeable effect on increased stability. In lighter winds you are better off with a flat tail. I use a hook and a loop on the string so I can choose to use the billow or not. A major drawback is that the billow deforms the tail silhouette so silhouette integrity is diminished. ☺



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Steve Fennel
phone: 360-RIPSTOP | 610-395-3560
email: steve@kitebuilder.com

KITES OF THE YEAR:
2007 - "Cody" by John Whibley
2009 - "Andromeda" by Simon Crafts
2008 - "Nightfall" by Peter Ross



VOICES FROM THE VAULT

BILLY JONES

BY PATTI GIBBONS

Seasoned kite merchant, agile stunt flier, and budding kite historian, Billy Jones started tugging at kites at a young age and has long welcomed kites into his life as a source of fun. Growing up, his pilot father flew for Pan Am airlines and delighted young Billy with the kites he toted home from Asia. With an eye for exotic beauties, his father gave Billy a glimpse of the kite's global reach.

As an adult and full-grown lover of the sky, avid kiteflier and daring skydiver Billy jumped swiftly into the kite trade. In 1984 he took a salesperson job at the Kite Loft in Ocean City, Maryland. "I came to the kite industry through distributing juggling equipment and immediately realized I liked the kite industry and wanted to get into retail." Billy set down roots and eventually became a co-owner of the Kite Loft.

In 1993 warm winds pulled Billy and he sold his Kite Loft stock and redirected his nest egg to help open a new kite store in Delaware. With ground-floor ownership under his belt, a while later Billy branched his career in a new direction. He ventured into manufacturing and launched the thriving Caribbean Kites company. After a few successful years, he returned to his retail roots and opened Key West Kites on the sunny Florida island. In recent years, Billy added to his professional portfolio and partnered up with (and eventually married) veteran KTAI consultant Maggie Vohs to help organize large-scale trade shows for the kite industry.

With decades of kite retail and manufacturing experience, and having mastered all sides of the kite industry, it is only fitting that the kite industry honored Billy. In 2006 he earned the David Checkley Lifetime Contribution Award from the Kite Trade Association International, an accolade very fitting for Billy's impressive kite résumé.

Finding success behind the counter and in the kite warehouse, off the clock Billy recharges and delights in the outdoor pleasures of flying kites. Pulling with both arms, this veteran flier vividly remembers the splash early stunt kites made and their quick evolution. During sport kiting's toddler days, Billy witnessed a chain reaction as dual-line kites improved, the industry fortified, and the flying community fine-tuned sport kite competitions and pulled in larger audiences. The evolution of the sport kite was quick and punctuated. Innovators arrived on



the scene and made changes to products that "became common place in the industry." Adopting carbon spars and ripstop nylon, for instance, were two innovations that shocked the sport into a period of quantum growth. Analyzing history a bit, Billy points out, "The kite conventions and kite festivals and

independent kite-makers, really,

have been the catalyst for the changes within the industry."

Chicken or the egg hairsplitting aside, Billy witnessed a fertile time that became the "creation of the modern day kite industry."

As both a customer and a merchant, Billy eagerly test drove emerging kite novelties and looking back

remembers how kitemaking pioneers and the products that sprung onto the kiting scene influenced one another like a rapid fire tennis volley in the 1970s, 80s, and early 90s. "Three or four different schools kept making larger sparless kites. They brought it to the public's eye, that then helped refine it." Recalling many influential kitemakers, Billy singles out a few leaders that altered the landscape of sport kiting like Dom Jalbert who originated the stickless parafoil and kicked off an exciting period of kiting modernism that reshaped the kite industry. Other kite pioneers like Doug Hagaman and Dean Jordan advanced dual-line kites and perfected the parafoil,

since used to lift infinite lengths of line laundry, bedazzling the skies with wondrous windsocks, sky anchors, and spin socks. Awed also by the work of Australian Peter Lynn, Billy credits him for populating the sky with his larger than life cartoon cats and octopus fliers that kicked off a subculture of large form, "Jaw dropping show pieces," that have dominated kite festival skies since the 1990s and showed that line laundry could be more popular than kites.

From the flying field and retail floor, Billy saw firsthand what influenced evolutions in the modern kiting landscape and is able to connect the dots of the modern kiting history. "I enjoyed the ability, or the opportunity, of working for years and seeing industry pioneers" leave their marks and watching others build on their work. "I've been in a position to meet and know and respect all of these guys. . . and meet the people and ask them what they did, and ask them how they got started." Being able to talk to others about kiting and their experiences has "been a treasure," that Billy gratefully appreciates. ☺



Several chatty kitefliers let the tape spin and recorded their memories and thoughts about kites, kitefliers, and the great big sky for the World Kite Museum's oral history archive project. Interested in telling your stories? Would you like to hear what other fliers say? Got time to interview special people in your local clubs or friends in far away places? Feel free to contact the Museum if you'd like to learn more about the oral history tapes. Contact us at info@worldkitemuseum.com.



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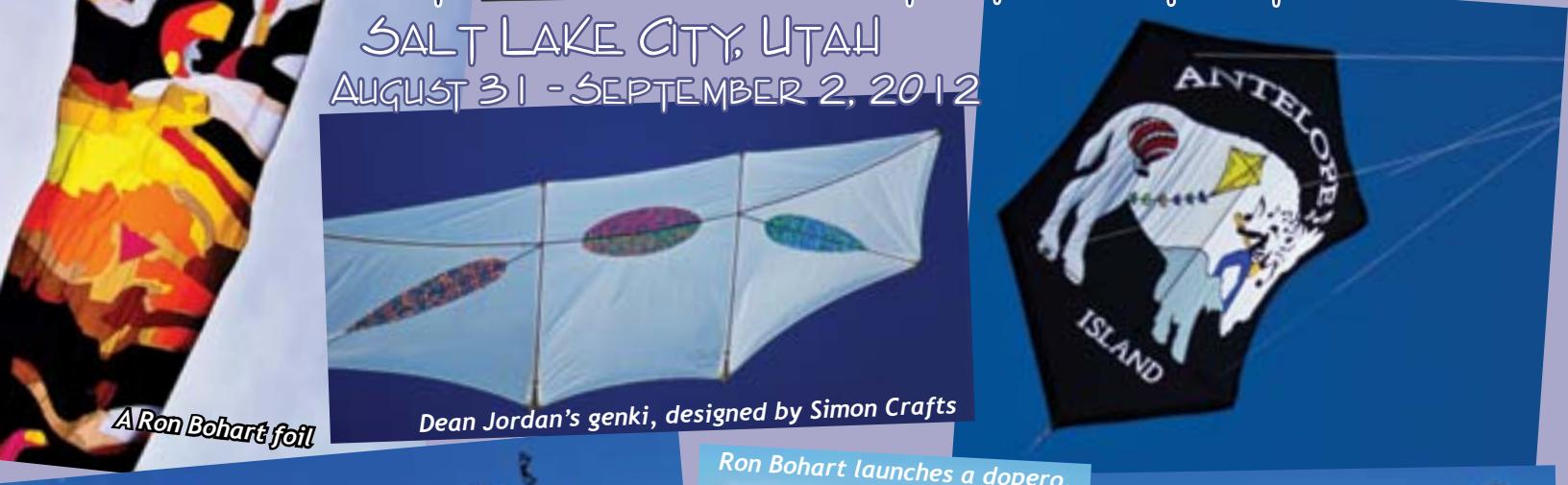
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A Ron Bohart foil

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Ron Bohart launches a dopero.



iQuad



A José Sainz hata



Rick Bayless



A Ron Bohart hawk



A pair of coyotes by Ron Bohart



Launching Rick Bayless' foil.



Dean Jordan



Dean Jordan



John Barresi at play



Steve DeRooy's rokkaku





WASHINGTON STATE INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL LONG BEACH, WASHINGTON

AUGUST 20 - 26, 2012



See more WSIF pix!



Bud Wendt
PHOTOS BY DONNA WENDT,
ALISA DELGADILLO
AND SHAD PHARAON



FRANCE FANTASTIQUE!

It's an honor that the AKA had a presence at the 17th Festival International Du Cerf-Volant Dieppe. I attended with Cliff Quinn and the Region 13 Director Linda Sanders. Having Linda there for our international members to meet in person was a special treat.

The Dieppe Festival is on France's Normandy Coast. Besides being the oldest seaside resort, it's a premier European festival for the largest gathering of Region 13 members to attend, represent themselves, their countries and their cultures. With over 30 countries represented it is known as a showcase with one of the widest cross-sections of kites and kitefliers in the world.

This is the fourth time the AKA has been represented at Dieppe and each time we discover more things to present. It's a pleasure to be part of such a well organized event. Thanks goes to the hard full time work of Sandrine Frebourg. She's already started working on 2014.

Bernard Fournière



During our first day we organize the marquee and say "hello" or "bonjour" to our friends and more than 40 festival staff workers. The second day is the kickoff parade. We march at least two miles through the city, interacting with residents, carrying banners, beating drums, and dancing with the stilt walkers. People wave from their apartments and line the streets, all cheering for the kite parade. I don't know who is having the most fun. (For parade highlights,

search *festival du cerf-volant Dieppe 2012 la parade du festival* on YouTube.)

The days that follow are filled with sharing and answering the questions of over 750,000 spectators. Our AKA French members, Bernard and Marie Fournière, act as our interpreters for the entire ten days. Merci to them both! Linda and husband Kevin Sanders have also learned some French and help out too.

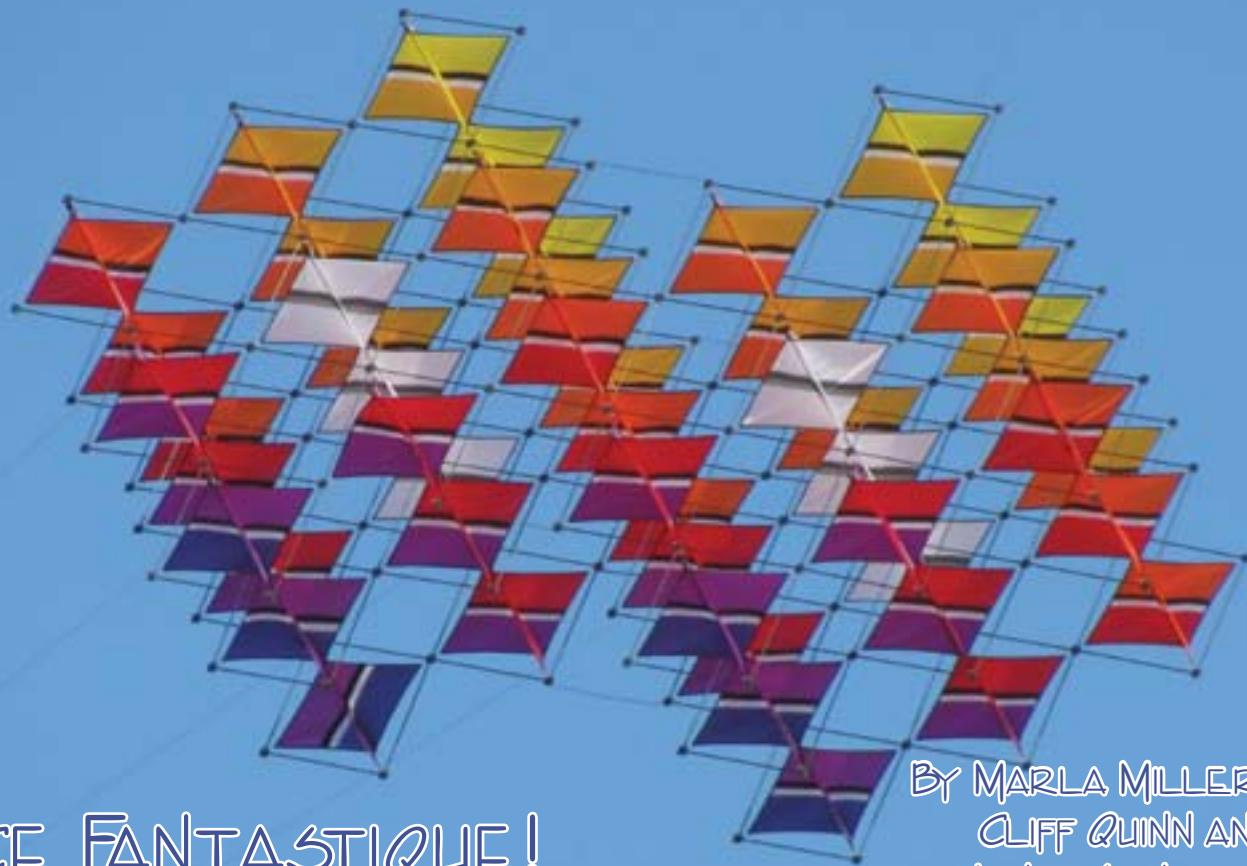
During two days we have school children coming through and they have lots of questions. Again this year we passed out red clown noses to the children and their teachers too. For the second year, Bernard arranged for a group to go to two schools and do kids kitemaking. This is Cliff's favorite part (he supplies all the kite kits), and he was joined by David Robinson, Hilary and Trevor Hughes and Meg Albers. We made over 200 kids happy.

Every day begins with briefings about what is going to happen and what they expect of us. Spectacular kites constantly fill the sky along with fantastic ground displays, including an incredible acre of wind garden objects shimmering, spinning and making wonderful musical tones. Kitemaking competition on a true international scale takes place every year with a fantastic first prize.

This year had circus performers wandering through the festival, plus other events on the main stage. The main tent had beautiful artistic kites from master kitemakers. And of course, there's the food, fantastic \$3 bottles of great wine, the farmer's market on two Saturdays, and restaurants with special menus for kiters at reduced prices. The Bert family, owners of our host hotel, treat us royally and cater to our every need. It doesn't get any better than this!

If you wish to go to Dieppe in 2014, contact me. Again, a big thank you for those who helped and merci to our friend Sandrine and her wonderful staff! Consider treating yourself to this magnificent opportunity of serious fun. Every day the sky comes alive with magical creations and colors. New designs and banners dance with the wind. Dieppe rocks! ☺

BY MARLA MILLER,
CLIFF QUINN AND
LINDA SANDERS



Linda Sanders meets
Dieppe's George Clooney
lookalike mayor.



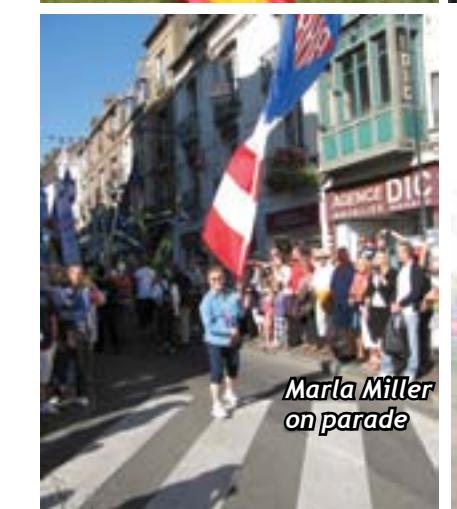
Roy Broadley's toucans



A classic kite from
Wales' Steve Brockett.



PHOTOS BY HILARY HUGHES, CLIFF QUINN,
BERNARD FOURNIÈRE, AND DAVID ROBINSON



Marla Miller
on parade



England's Keith Boxall
gives Linda Sanders
flowers.



A genki variation
by Israel's Eli and
Shula Shavit

FLYING LEAVES

The American Kitefliers Association and the Cerf-Volant Club de France had their first shared project in Dieppe in 2010, with the candle kite. The project kite this year was the *Canadian Maple*, a kite with the exact shape of the Canadian flag logo. More than 20 kites have been made, worldwide, with the size ranging from 56 in² to 99 ft². They came from Pennsylvania, Washington, Curacao, UK, France, Switzerland, Austria, Israel, and Australia. ☺



Festival coordinator Sandrine Frebourg with the largest leaf, made by France's Bernard Fournière.



Two trios of leaves: a train by Australia's Kevin Sanders, and side-by-side-by-side from Bernard Fournière.



Cliff Quinn with Louis LeBlanc, organizer of Canada's Dieppe International Kite Festival.

PHOTOS BY BERNARD FOURNIÈRE



The leaf's original framing, designed by Eric Stempell.



Success! Cliff Quinn wraps up a workshop.



Shula and Eli Shavit with their patchwork Israeli leaf.



Cliff Quinn

FAIRE DES CERFS-VOLANTS DANS LES ÉCOLES FRANÇAISES

The first objective is pedagogic. Young children meet people from other countries, speaking another language. For those who have started to learn English, this is a good occasion to do some English in a different context, linked to the main city event: the kite festival.



David Robinson, Meg Albers, and Trevor and Hilary Hughes go back to school.

The first school workshop in Dieppe was organized in 2010. It was a real success, and both the school teacher, Mrs. Hanias, and the AKA members asked to re-do it this year. Three workshops were organized in 2012 in two different schools, for kids age seven (Mrs. Hanias' class), nine and ten (school of Mr. Eloy, who is also the president of the kite festival and deputy mayor). In this school, very close to the kite festival, the AKA members have supplied information from US schoolteachers in order to implement a pen pal process.

The workshop started with a general presentation by the AKA members of different models of kite (including rare WW2 kites shown by Meg Albers). Then started the kite building activity, brilliantly presented by Cliff Quinn, with the assistance of the AKA members. Lots of creativity from the kids, lots of questions, lots of fun for everybody.

When all the kites were done, we concluded with safety rules: fly our kites far away from electric lines, cars, people and kite-eating trees. The beach is the best place. Everybody was happy: the kids, the AKA members and the teachers who all concluded with "see you next festival." And during the festival the AKA delegation had visits from kids coming to tell us, "This kite flies well!" One class in 2010, three classes in 2012. . . if it continues this way it could be necessary to have a full time workshop group! ☺

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BORNEO INTERNATIONAL KITE FESTIVAL
BINTULU, MALAYSIA
SEPTEMBER 26 - 30, 2012



PHOTOS BY PATRIZIO MARIANI





TORONTO TAKOS BY CARLOS SIMOES

This grand kiting event is held in the very heart of Toronto. The third edition of Toronto Windfest, on September 22, was a blast for all involved! The event is the brainchild of Dave Meslin. Many of us first got to know Dave a few years ago when he fought Toronto city hall's decision to ban kite flying in local parks. He has been very active in Toronto politics for several years. His desire is to have more people get involved with their community. Ashbridges Bay is a large park that also forms part of the city's main trail system. Torontonians love this park especially for anything sports- or exercise-related.

Dave Meslin's vision for this festival was to put on a grand display of all things wind, solar and renewable resource related. His idea of showcasing and informing the Toronto public about various types of green energy sources is brilliant! Involving the big boys like Toronto Hydro and the Canadian Wind Energy Association meant instant credibility with the public as well as the media. Most of the displays at Windfest focus on the latest green energy innovations and technology like wind and solar power. Kites are wind powered and certainly attract people's attention. It's a natural fit!

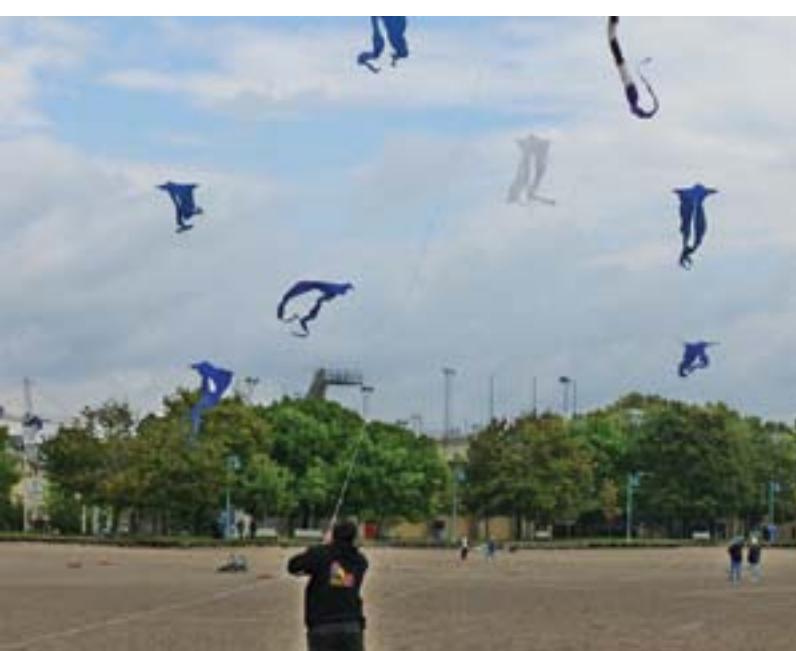
Skye Morrison was there running her third children's kite building workshop. Skye and several community volunteers were kept busy all day long helping children create Kiskadee fighters. This year the kite workshops and interactive energy display demos were all set up close to the public, main boardwalk and bike path. It was a great way to attract people who

did not know about the event.

In Ontario this is one of those rare chances to fly on a nice sandy beach. Most events around here are normally on grass fields. It was fun following all the anchoring chatter on the TKF group leading up to the event. Most agreed that using web-reinforced ripstop sand anchors was the way to go. Years ago the Toronto Kite Fliers used to hold an annual fun fly at this very same beach. Back then most of us flew dual or quad line. Single line kites like rokkakus were mostly hand held. With the growth in popularity of huge foils and inflatables anchoring properly is a hot topic.

On the demo field the Windjammers performed to music with their Rev kites and Dynakite stacks. Michael Carlisle, George Wright and Gary Maynard are talented flyers. The crowd was very receptive and applauded the efforts of the aerobatic routines. A little later Fred Taylor came out to entertain the spectators with his own stack of Dynakites.

Over on the single line field we were all kept busy as the kites wandered all over the sky. Winds were fresh but a little choppy. Everyone worked together to keep lines untangled and crashing kites to a minimum. Several large foils flown by Brendan Burge, Todd Vest and Paul Burton were crowd favorites. The long trailing streamers and tube tails made their kites appear larger than life. The children in particular loved the 50' long inflatable caterpillar that Alex Dagenais and Cristina Siarri brought from Quebec. Steve Polanski's ghost deltas were pasted to the sky and looked great from anywhere on the sandy field! Gary Mark's clown fish and my bear also delighted the public. "Mom, look, it's Winnie the Pooh!" or "It's Nemo!" were great comments to hear! The flying fields were roped off for safety but it was

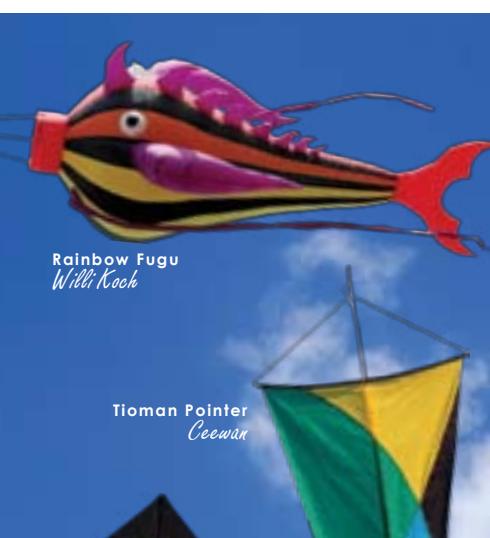


still easy to talk to the spectators about any questions they had.

In the late afternoon there was a major wind change. Several of the kites and longs tails shifted 90° to the south. They were now flying directly over Lake Ontario. It did not take the foils long to cross, flip over and crash into the lake and sandy

surf below. Several fliers jumped in to pull the kites to safety. Once everything was back on land the sticky sand was shaken free. The fresh winds inflated everything on the ground and helped dry things up very nicely.

The day's fun and crazy flying ended at 4PM. We all finished packing up and headed over to Fred and Donna Taylor's RV for a barbecue dinner. I helped Fred quickly cook up the burgers and hotdogs. It really was a nice way to talk over the day's events and not have to mind kites at the same time. Thanks to Dave Meslin, Walter and Patrick Corsetti, Michaela Koch, several other TKF fliers and the community volunteers. It was a great year for Windfest and Dave is looking forward to organizing year four in 2013! ☺



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VIVE LE MONDE!

On September 23, in respect for the United Nations International Day of Peace and the fall equinox, Denver kitemaker Jane Parker-Ambrose, founder of One Sky One World, flew a kite for peace and was the first person recorded to ever fly a kite off of the Eiffel Tower. The kite, a tissue paper bee made by Belgian architect and kitemaker Nest Lernout, has a frame which forms the international peace symbol. In France at the invitation of the Dieppe International Kite Festival, Jane was honored at the festival for One Sky One World's work in the spirit of international friendship and protection of the planet's environment.

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THE GASTRONOMICAL POSSIBILITIES OF QUAD-LINE KITES

While those who went to Enid spent most of their mealtimes enjoying barbecue, there were some other options available. For instance, the sign outside El Chico restaurant advertised the special shown in the photograph. What exactly goes into a Rev Taco? Is it simply Ben Dantonio served in a crunchy shell with lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, and salsa? We want to hear your suggestions! Send your ideas for how to make a Rev Taco to kiting.ed@aka.kite.org before January 20, and we'll publish them in the next issue.

Speaking of things to eat, the Spring issue of *KITING* will be all about food. Do you have favorite recipes for picnic fare to take with you when you go flying? Are there legendary restaurants that you have to visit when you go to certain festivals? And which events serve the best banquets? Admit it, kiting wouldn't be as much fun on an empty stomach, so tell us all about your favorite kiteflying foods and dining experiences.



KITES AND PUPPETS WIN IN KAZAKHSTAN

We've probably all been asked, "So, do you ever win money for kiteflying?" And finally, some of us can answer, "Yes!" At September's World Puppetry Carnival in Almaty, Kazakhstan, the Ibex Puppetry team won the Best Artistic Production prize with their *Celebration of Flight* show.

The cast included Mark DeMaio, Tamara Marke-Lares, Lisa Willoughby, April Tennyson, Heather Henson, David Jordan, Frank Ramirez, Jackie Elaine Bell, Scott Weider, Jack Fields, Heather Morrow, Genevieve Bernard, Curtiss Mitchell and Hannah Miller.



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*Member's Choice: Kite Aerial Photograph
Octopus Out Of Water by Darrin Skinner
Caesar Chavez Park, Berkeley, California*

